



Ostomy
Canada
Society

Société
Canadienne des
Personnes Stomisées



The Canadian Association
for Enterostomal Therapy

Association Canadienne
des Stomothérapeutes

September 3, 2015

Ministry of Health and Long term care
Office of the Minister
10th Floor Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2C4

Dear Dr. Hoskins,

On behalf of Ostomy Canada Society, and the Canadian Association for Enterostomal Therapy, we would like to express our thanks for the wonderful news of the increase in ADP funding for the people in Ontario living with an ostomy. We know that an increase in funding for the purchase of ostomy supplies will make a large difference for people living with an uncomplicated ostomy.

This is an excellent first step, but our work is not done. There are still gaps and opportunities for improvement:

1. Many people living with an ostomy require special assistance due to the stoma location, presence of a fistula, or a higher output of effluent than normal due to physiologic factors. Due to these factors, this ostomy patient population require more supplies and have to spend more money in order to be able to achieve a normal daily routine.
2. Additional implications for these patients can include increased sick time or an inability to work to support themselves and /or their family, ulcers around the stoma causing increased leakage and odour and ultimately more frequent pouch changes and other physical issues. Complication rates for those with ostomies range from 25 to 57%, and the majority of patients either cannot self-identify the complications, or do not seek help¹. A study published in 2013, indicated that if patients with ostomies were seen by an Enterostomal Therapy Nurse, their care costs could be reduced by \$760 per year²and yet there is no policy in place that mandates that an ostomy patient must be assessed by an Enterostomal Therapy nurse.
3. Patients with temporary ostomies are not consistently covered as part of the ADP funding program. There needs to be a clear statement on how ADP funding will work for those people

who have a temporary ostomy. Even though the ostomy is temporary, many are unable to work due to recent surgery or ongoing treatment and the cost of supplies is a financial burden. Many home care providers are not clear on the coverage for temporary ostomies resulting in the patient often being required to pay for these supplies while using homecare services.

4. Due to the rate of inflation and increasing costs of ostomy supplies, we would like to see a program where the 75% coverage on the cost of supplies is adopted and the coverage is applied at the point of sale, similar to the system in Saskatchewan. That way, the patient is not out of pocket for the costs of supplies and does not have to wait for the semi-annual payments to be reimbursed.

We are requesting a meeting to discuss the following issues which continue to be present as follows:

- An additional funding opportunity for patients with complicated ostomies or fistulas who require more ostomy supplies due to complications.
- Assessment of temporary ostomies and the development of a clear statement on how ADP funding will be provided.
- The development of a policy to support the critical role and involvement of Enterostomal Therapy Nurses to provide specialized ostomy care for this patient population in Ontario in order to improve quality of life for ostomy patients and to reduce the burden on the healthcare system.
- A process for maintaining at least 75% coverage from ADP into the future for patients living with an uncomplicated ostomy and for those patients receiving social assistance or living in a long term care facility.

Please contact the CAET Executive Director, Catherine Harley at 613-762-5788 or by e-mail at Catherine.harley@sympatico.ca in order to set a time in order to discuss this issue further.

With best regards,



Peter Folk
President, Ostomy Canada Society



Paulo DaRosa, RN, BScN, MCIScWH, CETN C)
CAET President

¹Marquis, P, Marrell A et al. Quality of Life in Patients with Stomas: The Montreaux Study. *Ostomy Wound Management* ;49(2):48-55, Feb 2003

²Padilla, Liza L. Transitioning with an Ostomy: The Experience of Patients with Cancer following Hospital Discharge. submitted to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Masters of Science in Nursing and Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner Certificate ,University of Ottawa ,April, 2013

