

About Your Medical Review

What is a medical review?

A medical review is **not a reapplication** – it focuses on changes to your medical conditions since your last ODSP disability decision.

A medical review allows the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) to make sure a person continues to meet the definition of a person with a disability under the ODSP Act. Because the government offers income support and benefits to people with medical conditions that may improve, we need to be able to confirm who is still eligible.

Why do I need a medical review?

The medical information you provided when you applied for ODSP showed your condition might improve over time.

Some medical conditions may improve over time, for example:

- back injuries
- certain cancers
- depression.

We will notify you of your medical review date, if the information we have indicates you have a condition that might improve over time.

What if I do not have a doctor to complete my medical review forms?

The Medical Form Part A can be completed by one of the following health care professionals:

- a medical doctor, such as a family doctor or a specialist such as psychiatrist
- a psychologist or psychological associate
- a nurse practitioner, or
- an optometrist.

Health Care Connect is a service that helps Ontarians find a family health care professional. If you need a health care professional you can call the Health Care Connect toll-free number: **1-800-445-1822**

You can also find more information about your medical forms and who can fill them out in the Instruction Sheet, in your package of forms.

Do all people receiving ODSP have medical reviews?

No; about one third of all ODSP recipients have medical conditions that could improve over time, and they have all received a medical review date.

Conditions that will not improve over time will not require a review date.

What is the Summary of the Disability Decision for?

The Summary is for you to give to your health care professional. They can use the Summary to learn more about why you were found eligible for ODSP.

The Summary will be especially helpful to your health care professional if they are not the same person who originally filled out your forms.

What if my health has gotten better since I first qualified for ODSP?

You may still qualify for ODSP even if one or more of your medical conditions have improved. Your health care professional will provide information about your current medical status, including information about any new medical conditions that we should consider.

You can also fill out the **Self Report Form** so the ministry knows how you feel your disability continues to affect you in your everyday life. This is your chance to tell your story.

Will I continue to receive ODSP income support following my medical review?

You will continue to receive income support as long as you continue to meet the ODSP's definition of a person with disability, and all other eligibility requirements.

If you no longer meet ODSP's definition of a person with a disability but meet all other eligibility requirements you will continue to get ODSP income support and benefits for a further three months to help you adjust to the change in your financial circumstances. However, in the fourth month:

- If you are single or if your spouse is non-disabled, you will no longer get ODSP income support and benefits. If you are in financial need, you may apply for assistance from Ontario Works.
- If you have a spouse who is also a person with a disability under ODSP, then we will adjust the amount of income support you receive as a family.

How do I appeal a decision made about my medical review?

If you disagree with the medical review decision, you can ask for an internal review of your decision by the Disability Adjudication Unit. If you do not agree with the results of the internal review you can appeal to the Social Benefits Tribunal.

The Social Benefits Tribunal is an independent, impartial tribunal that operates at arm's length from the ministry. If you are in financial need and appeal a medical review decision to the Social Benefits Tribunal, you may ask the Social Benefits Tribunal for interim assistance while waiting for your appeal to be heard.

If you would like advice from a community legal clinic, you can contact Legal Aid Ontario at:

- 416-979-1446 (Toronto)
- 1-800-668-8258 (Toll Free)

TTY users can call:

- 416-598-8867 (Toronto TTY)
- 1-866-641-8867 (Toll Free TTY)

You can also contact them online at www.legalaid.on.ca or by e-mail at info@lao.on.ca.

Note: Your caseworker can provide you with information about the internal review and appeals process. If you are in financial need, you may apply for financial assistance from Ontario Works.

If I no longer qualify for ODSP, are there other resources and supports to help me?

ODSP offers employment supports for people who find it hard to work because of their health or disability. Here are some examples of the services you can get:

- help preparing for work
- help finding a job that is right for you
- help keeping a job
- job coaching.

You may be eligible to receive employment supports even if you no longer qualify for income support. This is because the eligibility rules are different.

If you are interested in learning more about ODSP Employment Supports please visit: www.ontario.ca/socialassistance or contact your caseworker.

If you are in financial need, you may also apply for Ontario Works.

Please visit www.ontario.ca/socialassistance to learn more about Ontario Works.

How can I get more information?

If you want more information about medical reviews, please Call:

- 416-326-5079 (Toronto)
- 1-888-256-6758 (Toll Free)
TTY users can call:
- 416-326-3372 (Toronto TTY)
- 1-866-780-6050 (Toll Free TTY)

For information about income support, benefits and employment supports please contact your caseworker or your local ODSP office.

For more information about ODSP, visit: www.ontario.ca/socialassistance

You may also want to discuss your medical review package with someone you trust, such as a family member, a social worker, a community agency, or your community legal clinic.