

Ministry of
Community and
Social Services

Ministère des
Services sociaux
et communautaires



Social Policy Development Division
Ontario Disability Support Program Branch
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Website: <http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/social/odsp/index.aspx>

December 20, 2012

ATTN: Sheryl Chandler, Chairperson of the PWS Network Steering Committee

Prader-Willi Syndrome Network
c/o Community Living Dufferin
65371 County Road 3
Orangeville, ON
L9W 2Y9
info@pwsnetwork.ca

Dear Ms. Chandler,

RE: Special Diet Allowance

I am writing to inform you of a recent change to the government's Special Diet Allowance program which may be of interest to some of your members. The Special Diet Allowance (SDA) assists social assistance recipients who have an existing medical condition for which a special diet is generally recognized by the Ontario medical community as being helpful in treatment and that results in additional costs beyond a regular healthy diet.

The government has added Prader-Willi Syndrome as an eligible condition on the Special Diets schedule. This means social assistance recipients (from either Ontario Works or the Ontario Disability Support Program) who have been diagnosed with Prader-Willi Syndrome by an approved health professional and would benefit from dietary intervention in the form of the "Red Yellow Green" diet are now eligible to receive the Special Diet Allowance.

As you know, dietary intervention is a significant component of the overall management of this syndrome, and requires both modifications in the context of a normal diet, as well as the implementation of a highly structured eating regime. The "Red Yellow Green" (RYG) diet was developed to meet the nutritional needs of persons with Prader-Willi Syndrome, as well as reduce the severity of symptoms, and is recognized by leading experts as an effective weight management tool in the treatment of the syndrome.

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The Special Diet Allowance will assist these recipients with additional costs associated with the special dietary requirements related to the RYG diet.

Eligible recipients can request an Application for Special Diet Allowance form from their local Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program office. Further information on the Special Diet Allowance program can be accessed on the ministry's website at the following links:

Ontario Disability Support Program recipients: Directive 6.4

http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/directives/directives/ODSPDirectives/income_support/6_4_ODSP_ISDirectives.aspx

Ontario Works recipients: Directive 6.6

http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/programs/social/directives/directives/OWDirectives/6_6_OW_Directives.aspx

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patti Redmond', written in a cursive style.

Patti Redmond
Director

c. Jeff Butler, Acting Director, Ontario Works Branch