



## Ontario Updates Special Diet Allowance

Ontario is adding three conditions to the list of medical conditions for which social assistance recipients may be eligible to receive a Special Diet Allowance.

This change will help affected individuals with the extra costs of a special diet.

Eligibility is verified through an assessment by an approved medical professional.

The three new medical conditions to be added are:

- Congenital heart defect in patients who have had a Ross Procedure or an arterial switch procedure or coexisting coarctation of the aorta. Congenital heart defect refers to a malformation of the heart, aorta, or other large blood vessels, and is the most common form of major birth defect in newborns
- Unintended weight loss due to interferon treatment for people with hepatitis C
- Rett Syndrome, a neurodevelopment disorder that affects mobility and brain development. Social assistance recipients who have Rett Syndrome may be eligible for a Special Diet Allowance if they have a body mass index of less than 18.5

The changes are effective Dec. 1, 2014.

Eligible recipients can request an Application for Special Diet Allowance form from their local [Ontario Works](#) or [Ontario Disability Support Program office](#).