Review Processes for New Drug Therapies

The province of Newfoundland and Labrador is an active participant in three initiatives aiming to share provincial and territorial resources related to the assessment of clinical and cost effectiveness of new drug therapies:

I. Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC)
II. The Atlantic Common Drug Review (ACDR)
III. The pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA)

I. Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC), created and funded by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments, makes evidence-based pharmaceutical reimbursement recommendations to publicly funded drug plans. Reviews completed by CDA-AMC expert committees take into account medical and scientific knowledge, current clinical practice, economics, ethics, and impacts to patients and the public. CDA-AMC listing recommendations form the basis of the Newfoundland and Labrador Prescription Drug Program (NLPDP) special authorization criteria.

More information regarding CDA-AMC, its committees and review processes, can be found at: Canada's Drug Agency | CDA-AMC

Once a drug receives a positive recommendation through a CDA-AMC expert review process, the price of the drug is negotiated on behalf of all Canadian public drug plans by the pCPA (see section III below). Only drugs with a positive CDA-AMC recommendation that are negotiated successfully by pCPA are considered for NLPDP benefit listing.

II. The Atlantic Common Drug Review (ACDR) assesses the clinical and cost effectiveness of drugs that do not fall under the mandate of CDA-AMC. ACDR provides benefit listing recommendations to publicly funded drug plans in Atlantic Canada.

More information regarding ACDR, its expert committee, submission requirements and review process can be found at: Atlantic Common Drug Review

Drugs that receive a positive recommendation through ACDR are reviewed by the Department of Health and Community services for NLPDP benefit listing. The price of drugs reviewed through ACDR are not required to be negotiated by pCPA prior to NLPDP listing.

III. The pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) conducts negotiations with drug manufacturers on behalf of Canadian public drug plans to achieve greater value for brand and generic medications. Due to the combined "buying power" of drug plans across provinces and territories, the pCPA aims to:

a. Achieve lower drug costs and consistent pricing

b. Increase access to clinically relevant and cost-effective drug treatment options

c. Improve consistency of coverage criteria across Canada

d. Reduce duplication and optimize resource utilization

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More information regarding pCPA can be found at: Home Page | pCPA