Patient Engagement at CADTH: Expectations, Perspectives, and Experiences

Why Seek the Patient Perspective?

Listening to patients is a vital part of CADTH’s work. We know that patients have unique knowledge about what it is like to live with a specific medical condition. They can tell us what is important to them, including potential benefits of current treatments and harms they wish to avoid — which may not be reported in published literature. And they can tell us what they would most value from a new treatment. All of this information can and should inform our approach to health technology assessment (HTA) and management.

Opportunities for Input: Patient Perspectives and Experiences

Within CADTH, our Common Drug Review (CDR) and pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review (pCODR) programs deliver reimbursement recommendations to governments to help them make evidence-informed funding decisions.

Opportunities for Input: Patient Perspectives and Experiences

Pharmaceutical Reviews

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Medical Devices and Clinical Interventions

CADTH also seeks patient involvement in our medical devices and clinical interventions portfolio, which delivers reports and recommendations on the optimal use of diagnostic tests, as well as medical, dental, and surgical devices and procedures.

For these projects, we seek patient input on key outcomes to inform the development of the research protocol. We also conduct a systematic review of the qualitative literature on patient perspectives and experiences to accompany the clinical and economic assessments of the technology. And we seek feedback on draft reports and recommendations from all interested stakeholders, including patients.

Scientific Advice

The Scientific Advice Program at CADTH is a fee-for-service consultation offered to pharmaceutical companies. Through the program, CADTH provides advice on early drug development plans from an HTA perspective.

As part of the process to develop scientific advice, CADTH interviews a patient who has a long-term experience with the condition in question and we seek the patient’s input on current therapies and unmet needs. Patients are recruited through relationships with patient groups, clinical experts, and other networks. Our hope is that, if patients are involved in trial design, the findings may better reflect patient needs.

Advisory Roles for Patients and the Public

Through our Board of Directors and advisory bodies, CADTH enlists the support of experts and stakeholders from across the country to inform our work. Public and patient members hold positions on our:

- Board of Directors (public members)
- Canadian Drug Expert Committee (public members)
- pCODR Expert Review Committee (patient members)
- Health Technology Expert Review Panel (public member)
- Patient Community Liaison Forum.

The CADTH Patient Community Liaison Forum is a voluntary group, comprising representatives from patient group umbrella organizations and CADTH. It provides an effective means of sharing information and collaborating on broad issues that generally apply to both our scientific work and how we engage with the patient community.

Learning Opportunities for Patients and Patient Groups

CADTH Lecture Series

The CADTH Lecture Series features presentations by prominent scientists and scholars who share their perspectives on the pressing issues facing HTA today. There is no fee to attend the lectures, and attendees can participate in person or via webinar, with the videos archived for later viewing. The topics selected are often of interest to patients and members of the public.

CADTH Symposium

The annual CADTH Symposium is a must-attend conference for the HTA community in Canada and beyond, and brings together HTA producers, health economists, government representatives, academics, health professionals, patients and patient groups.

Patients and patient groups are involved in several aspects of the conference, including:

- serving on the conference planning committee
- participating as speakers in plenary and panel sessions
- presenting oral presentations and posters.

To make patient involvement easier, CADTH provides a Travel Award to cover the cost of attendance, and patients who do not receive an award are eligible for a discounted registration fee.

For more information about patient engagement and involvement at CADTH, please visit www.cadth.ca/patientengagement.

Patient and Public Engagement at CADTH

Governance and Advisory Roles

- Board of Directors
- Canadian Drug Expert Committee
- pCODR Expert Review Committee
- Health Technology Expert Review Panel
- Patient Community Liaison Forum

Patient Perspectives and Experiences

- Patient group input:
  - Common Drug Review
  - pCODR Oncology Drug Review
  - Therapeutic Reviews

Direct interaction with patients:

- Scientific Advice

Qualitative evidence synthesis:

- Reviews of patient perspectives and experiences
- Reports on the appropriate use of multiple technologies including medical devices and clinical interventions

Opportunities for Learning

- CADTH Lecture Series
- CADTH Symposium