CDR Evaluation underway: stakeholders to be surveyed in June 2005

The evaluation of the Common Drug Review program’s first year of operation is underway. EKOS Research Inc., an Ottawa-based consulting practice specializing in program evaluation and performance measurement, has been selected to conduct the evaluation.

The goal of the CDR Evaluation is to assess if the CDR is meeting its stated objectives. The objectives of the CDR are to:

- Provide a consistent and rigorous approach to drug reviews and an evidence-based listing recommendation;
- Reduce duplication of efforts by drug plans;
- Maximize the use of limited resources and expertise;
- Provide equal access to the same high level of evidence and expert advice by all participating plans.

The deadline for completion of the CDR Evaluation is mid-August 2005. This timeframe allows for input from stakeholders. All subscribers to the CDR Update newsletter will be informed of the survey process in June 2005. Key informant interviews will be conducted with a sample of stakeholders selected from the following:

- F/P/T participating drug plans
- CCOHTA’s Advisory Committee on Pharmaceuticals (ACP)
- Canadian Expert Drug Advisory Committee (CEDAC)
- CDR reviewers
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Public
- Other health-related organizations

An Evaluation Advisory Committee drawn from CCOHTA, the Advisory Committee on Pharmaceuticals and the Canadian Expert Drug Advisory Committee will provide guidance and feedback on the evaluation framework, data collection tools and report.

The final report will provide detailed findings indicating whether the CDR objectives are being met and recommendations for improvements in the delivery of the CDR.