Balancing the Goals of Drug Plan Coverage to Optimize Patient Outcomes and Financing – Payer’s Perspective

May 7, 2013
CADTH Symposium
Alberta’s Public Drug Benefit Plans

- **Current Coverage**
  - Non-group Coverage
  - Seniors Coverage Palliative Coverage
  - Human Services Programs
  - Outpatient Cancer Drug Benefit Program
  - Specialized High Cost Drug Program
  - Drugs for Disease Control and Prevention

- **Moving to a unified drug and supplementary health benefits program on January 1, 2014**
WHAT DOES THE PROCESS ACHIEVE?

Canadians can buy prescription drugs that have been proven to work and have been evaluated for safety, for specific uses. Does not consider effectiveness versus other therapies or costs.

CDR - Considers comparative clinical effectiveness over existing therapies, and considers “value for money” (for new drug products only), on behalf of participating F/P/T drug programs.

Alberta’s Expert Committee - Considers interchangeability of generic drug products, reviews clinical evidence versus other therapies and proposes clinical criteria for drugs that need additional monitoring due to safety or efficacy concerns (e.g., Special Authorization). Also consider “value for money” versus other covered therapies from an Alberta perspective.

AHW assesses the budget impact (costs to public plan) and policy implications of recommendations for additions or changes to drug plan listings.

Minister - The final listing decision point for Albertans covered by government drug programs.
Ensuring Manageable Costs:

- **Alberta Drug Benefit List (ADBL):**
  - The ABDL defines the prescription drugs and drug products covered by Non-Group, Seniors, Palliative and Human Services plans.
  - Approximately 4500 drugs are currently listed.
  - The drugs on the ADBL are reviewed through the Common Drug Review process and/or the Alberta Expert Committee on Drug Evaluation and Therapeutics to for cost effectiveness compared to other drug products that are listed.

- Alberta is seeking to reduce the cost of both brand and generic drugs.
Ensuring Manageable Costs Continued…

- **Product Listing Agreements:**
  
  - This process allows single source patented drugs to be listed, that have not been recommended for listing through standard review processes.
  
  - It is intended to support improved health outcomes.
    - Utilization management
    - Health capacity research funding
    - Coverage and evidence development
  
  - Promotes best value for Government-sponsored Drug Plans by reducing the cost of brand name drugs.
    - Price/Volume rebates
  
  - Opportunities to collaborate with other provinces and territories through the Pan-Canadian Pricing Alliance
The costs for generic drugs have been reduced significantly in recent years.

- Current changes to generic drug pricing will save approximately $90 million for the Alberta government in fiscal year 2013/2014.
Expanding the Role of Pharmacists:

- The Alberta Government supports an active participating role for Alberta’s pharmacists as integral members of our health care system.

- The development of the **Alberta Pharmacy Services Framework** means pharmacist will be reimbursed for providing a variety of health care services including:
  - Comprehensive Annual Care Plan,
  - Standard Medication Management Assessment,
  - Administration of Drugs by Injection,
  - Adaptation of a Prescription,
  - Patient Assessment for Prescribing in an Emergency,
  - Patient Assessment for Initiating Medication Therapy and Ongoing Therapy,
  - Patient Assessment for Prescription Renewal.

- Benefits of this expanded role for pharmacists include:
  - Improved patient care and service delivery,
  - Supports the continued development of chronic disease,
  - Creation of comprehensive annual care plan for patients,
  - A reduction on the cost of physician visits.