Procedures for Review of Therapeutic Alternatives During a Drug Supply Shortage

June 2, 2022

Purpose and Eligibility

This document outlines the procedures for a CADTH review of therapeutic alternatives during a drug supply shortage. The process is used to provide time-limited advice on therapeutic alternatives when federal, provincial, and territorial governments have indicated that there is a need due to a potential or actual shortage of 1 or more therapies that are standard of care in Canada within a therapeutic area. The procedure will include a clinical review of the available evidence and implementation advice from a panel of experts. Any manufacturers with questions about this process should contact CADTH at requests@cadth.ca.

1. Eligibility

1.1 Drug Eligibility

Eligibility for review through the *Procedures for Review of Therapeutic Alternatives During a Drug Supply Shortage* will be determined by CADTH at the request of federal, provincial, and territorial governments. Other stakeholders are not able to request that CADTH initiate work on advice related to a drug shortage.

1.2 Market Authorization Status

Reviews related to alternatives during a drug supply shortage may include evidence for use of alternative drug(s) that may not have a Health Canada Notice of Compliance (NOC) or Notice of Compliance with Conditions (NOC/c) for the indication being reviewed. Evidence on the use of drug(s) for the condition(s) of interest may be established by major international health technology assessment (HTA) agencies, regulatory bodies, and/or existing reviews of the relevant clinical evidence that is publicly available.

2. Phases of Review and Key Milestones

Table 1 indicates the phases of the review and outlines key tasks within the implementation advice process that pertain to the review of therapeutic alternatives during a drug supply shortage. The target time frame for a review is dependent on the nature of the drug shortage and will be tailored accordingly. Upon initiation of the review, CADTH will determine the timelines required to meet the key milestones set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Phases of Review for Alternatives During Drug Supply Shortage Process

Phase of review	Key milestones
Project initiation	Request received
	Review team assembled
	Scope of therapeutic alternatives will be reviewed with federal, provincial, and territorial governments
	Invite panel members and confirm participation
	Posted on CADTH website for public notice that the review is being undertaken

Phase of review	Key milestones
Draft advice report	Draft clinical summary of evidence prepared
	Panel preparation and meeting
	Draft implementation advice report prepared
Feedback phase	Feedback period for panellists
	Feedback period for representatives of federal, provincial, and territorial governments and their relevant agencies
Final report	Review and consideration of stakeholder feedback
	Finalize implementation advice report and clinical summary of evidence
	Final report copy-edited and formatted for posting
	Final report posted on CADTH website

3. Stakeholder Engagement

Once a request for a review of therapeutic alternatives during a drug supply shortage has been received from federal, provincial, and territorial governments, and the review is initiated, CADTH will post notice publicly. The posting will contain a description of the review, including the drug anticipated to have a supply shortage and the respective indication(s) for review.

3.1 Industry Engagement

As the review is initiated by federal, provincial, and territorial governments, no documentation will be required from industry sponsor(s), although additional information provided from sponsors may be considered. Should manufacturers wish to provide additional information, there will be no opportunity for redactions. For the review of therapeutic alternatives during a supply shortage, industry refers to all current Drug Identification Number (DIN) holders (including manufacturers of generic or biosimilar drugs).

3.2 Patient and Clinician Group Engagement

Due to the time-sensitive nature of this process and given that the advice provided by the panel is time-limited for the period of the supply shortage, CADTH will not issue open calls for input or feedback from patient groups or clinician groups.

3.3 Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Governments

To ensure that implementation considerations are clearly addressed by the panel and to help expedite the overall process, CADTH will consult and seek feedback from federal, provincial, and territorial governments and their relevant agencies during the review, as deemed appropriate.

4. Advice Procedure

4.1 CADTH Review Team

Once the request for implementation advice has been received, CADTH will notify and assemble the review team and panel members. The unique composition of each review team and panel is established based on the nature of the review and with consideration of the proposed team members' qualifications, expertise, and compliance with the *CADTH Conflict of Interest Guidelines for Members of CADTH Committees and Expert Review Panels*. The names of the review team members, including members of the implementation advice panel (panellists), will not be disclosed.

4.2 Review of Clinical Evidence

CADTH will leverage literature that is publicly available, including HTA, product labels, and regulatory reviews conducted by major international HTA agencies and/or regulatory bodies, in the first instance.

Should additional information be required, a limited literature search will be conducted by an information specialist to identify existing reviews from published literature, using key resources such as MEDLINE, Embase, and the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. Strengths and limitations of the evidence retrieved will be documented with respect to matters such as, but not limited to, relevance, credibility, and methodology.

The CADTH clinical review and implementation advice will be presented in a single report.

4.3 Implementation Advice Panel and Deliberative Process

CADTH will convene a panel of subject matter experts, as well as representation from key stakeholder groups, to address the relevant implementation questions. As such, some panellists may not directly treat the indication(s) for which the drug supply shortage may impact; however, the diverse composition of the panellists will provide a fulsome approach to implementation of the advice provided by the panellists. Whenever possible, CADTH will seek to obtain representation from across Canada. In accordance with the current policies used by CADTH, the identities of the panellists will remain confidential. CADTH will apply its current conflict of interest policy and all panellists will be required to provide completed conflict of interest declarations.

The attendance at implementation advice panel meeting(s) will typically be limited to the panellists, key CADTH staff (i.e., review team members), and representatives from federal, provincial, and territorial governments and their relevant agencies.

As appropriate, the panellists will be provided with details regarding the advice process, the CADTH report, and stakeholder input.

The deliberations regarding the implementation advice will be focused on addressing a specific policy question raised by the jurisdictions. The following items may be considered by the panellists, based on availability and appropriateness, when developing the advice to manage issues related to therapeutic alternatives during a drug supply shortage:

- clinical evidence supporting the effectiveness of particular therapies
- clinical experience and opinion that support the use of particularly therapies
- clinical practice guidelines
- reimbursement status of the treatment options across jurisdictions
- implementation considerations at the jurisdictional level
- limitations of available evidence and literature.

Clinical evidence to inform the use of alternative therapies in the event of a drug shortage may be limited; therefore, expert opinion will also inform the advice offered by the panel. The rationale for the panel's advice will be provided and documented in the report.

4.4 Advice Reports

a) Draft Advice Report

The draft implementation advice report will be provided to the panellists for review and feedback. CADTH will also obtain feedback from representatives of federal, provincial, and territorial governments and relevant agencies. CADTH will review and discuss the feedback with the chair of the implementation advice panel, who will determine if there is a need to reconvene the panel to discuss feedback that may warrant revisions to the implementation advice report.

b) Final Advice Report

The final report from this process will be posted on the CADTH website. There will be no confidential information included in the implementation advice report; as such, manufacturers and other stakeholders will not have the opportunity to request any redactions.