

January 30, 2014

Hello,

We're writing to follow up with you about the recent announcement from the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Deputy Ministers of Health to transfer the pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review (pCODR) to CADTH effective April 1, 2014. The key reason for the transfer is to further consolidate policy direction across different drug programs, and improve the pCODR governance structure to ensure its long-term viability and sustainability. This direction is supported by health ministries and cancer agencies across the country.

pCODR is well-respected in the cancer and drug review communities. Its people, processes, and expertise are valued by jurisdictions, health care providers, and patients for providing quality evidence to decision-makers in support of drug funding decisions. pCODR and CADTH are working closely to ensure a seamless transfer and no disruption in the pCODR review process.

The transfer of pCODR to CADTH is occurring in two phases. During the first phase, pCODR staff, processes, funding, and expertise will remain intact as a program, with a continued physical location in Toronto, Ontario, under the governance of CADTH. The second phase, to commence in April 2015, will explore better alignment of pCODR and CADTH Common Drug Review evaluation criteria, while taking advantage of the best practices of both review processes. pCODR and CADTH have been working together since the inception of pCODR in 2010. With this transfer, we look forward to an even more collaborative relationship as we share a common goal to deliver high-quality drug review processes for all Canadians.

In the spirit of how pCODR and CADTH engage its stakeholders, it is our intention to continue to engage the broader cancer community—including cancer agencies, patient groups, and industry—at various points through this transition process. Naturally, over the coming weeks, our efforts will be focused on more operational matters related to the transfer, such as human resources, finances, accommodations, and information technology, to achieve a seamless transfer.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and to assure you that there will be opportunities for engagement during the transition. We are working with pCODR and CADTH leadership to ensure that you are informed on the status of the transfer as this important work progresses.

Sincerely,



Scott Livingstone
Co-Chair,
pCODR Steering Committee



Robert Shaffer
Co-Chair,
pCODR Steering Committee



Terrence Sullivan
Chair,
CADTH Board of Directors