

# Ontario Public Drug Programs

## Patient Evidence Submissions

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# Overview

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# Ontario Public Drug Programs (OPDP)

## Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program

- Approximately 3,300 drugs listed in the Drug Benefit Formulary/ Comparative Drug Index (Formulary), and an additional 850 through the Exceptional Access Program.
- Provides drug benefits for Ontarians who are:
  - 65 years of age or older;
  - Residents of long-term care homes and homes for special care;
  - Recipients of professional home care services;
  - Recipients of social assistance, including Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program;
  - Recipients of the Trillium Drug Program

# Ontario Public Drug Programs (OPDP) (cont'd)

## New Drug Funding Program (NDFP)

- Drug benefits for newer, intravenous cancer drugs, typically administered in hospitals and cancer care facilities.

## Special Drugs Program (SDP)

- Drug benefits for Ontarians for certain expensive outpatient drugs used to treat specific diseases or conditions. (e.g. end stage renal disease, cystic fibrosis).

## Inherited Metabolic Diseases (IMD) Program

- Covers certain outpatient drugs, supplements and specialty foods used in the treatment of specific metabolic disorders.

## Others

- Visudyne Program
- Synagis Program

# Drug Access – Who does what

## **Health Canada (federal)**

Reviews drugs for safety & efficacy  
Approves drugs for sale in Canada  
Monitors safety in “real” usage

## **Common Drug Review (national)**

### **All F/P/T Plans (except Quebec)**

Reviews clinical & cost effectiveness data  
Makes funding recommendations to public drug plans

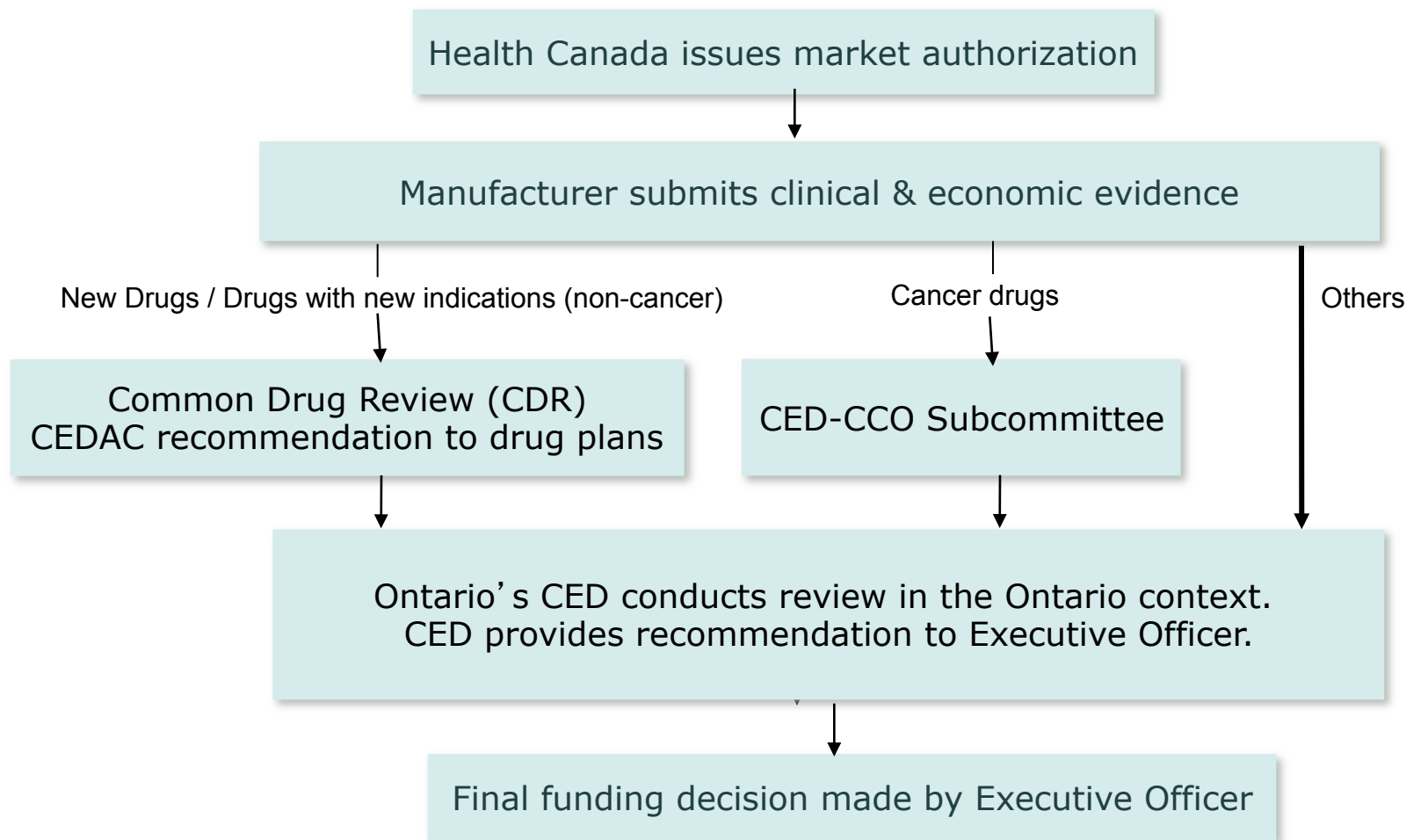
## **Quebec**

Conseil du médicament  
Clinical & financial review  
Makes recommendation to  
Minister of Health

## **Provinces & Territories**

Make final decisions on drug coverage & eligibility  
Pay for the drugs

# Ontario's Drug Review & Funding Process



CEDAC = Canadian Expert Drug Advisory Committee

CED = Committee to Evaluate Drugs

CED-CCO = Committee to Evaluate Drugs-Cancer Care Ontario

# Committee to Evaluate Drugs (CED)

- An expert advisory group that makes recommendations to the Executive Officer on drug funding and related issues.
- Membership includes:
  - Physicians
  - Pharmacists
  - Health economists
  - 2 patient members (since June 2007)
- Key considerations for CED drug reviews:
  - Clinical efficacy and safety of the drug product relative to available alternatives
  - Cost-effectiveness (i.e. evidence of value for money) of the drug product relative to alternate treatments
  - Patient impact
  - Impact on other health care services

# Executive Officer

- Makes final drug funding decisions taking into consideration:
  - CED recommendation
  - Advice from other advisory bodies, e.g. Citizen's Council
  - Patient and societal impact
  - Product listing agreements with manufacturers
  - Drug program budgets
  - Other factors, e.g. government priorities

# Public & Patient Engagement Initiatives

## **Public Engagement – Ontario Citizen's Council**

- An advisory body to the Executive Officer. The first of its kind in Canada, and one of only a handful in the world.
- Made up of 25 Ontarians representing a broad cross-section of the public.
- To meaningfully engage ordinary citizens about specific policy questions related to the province's public drug programs.
- First subject of discussion revolved around drugs for rare diseases.

# Public & Patient Engagement Initiatives (cont' d)

## Patient Engagement

- Executive Officer has regular (almost weekly) meetings with patient groups to hear concerns and seek input.
- Clear and concise communication on drug funding decisions and the rationale.
- Two patient members appointed to the CED since June 2007.
- Patient impact is a key consideration for drug funding recommendations and decisions. (Patient impact is specifically outlined in the CED Terms of Reference.)
- Patient evidence submission process established in April 2010.

# Patient Evidence Submission

## **Objective:**

- To put in place a formal framework to systematically incorporate patient evidence into the drug review and funding process.

## **Rationale:**

- Patients and caregivers can provide valuable information about the impact of a disease and new and existing drug treatments.
- This information can help set the context for the evaluation of clinical and economic data.

## How to make a submission

- Patient evidence submissions are accepted from registered patient groups only. Individual patients are encouraged to contact an organized patient group if they wish to make a submission.
- Each patient group must submit a completed registration form, either prior to or at the time of submission.
- A drug review schedule is posted on the ministry's website outlining all new drugs undergoing funding review. Patient groups are encouraged to check the drug schedule regularly and to provide their patient evidence submission on the provided template by the posted deadline.
- The patient evidence submission template form and the “how to guide” are posted on the Ministry's website.

## How patient evidence submissions are used

- Patient evidence submissions are collated by the ministry and are provided to the CED.
- A CED patient member presents a summary of the patient evidence submissions to the CED during drug funding deliberations.
- Patient impact is taken into consideration by the CED in its recommendation to the Executive Officer.

# How to provide meaningful submissions

## **Information not required:**

- Scientific evidence (e.g. clinical trial data) regarding the efficacy and safety of the drug product and its comparators. The CED already has this information.

## **Valuable patient information:**

- The symptoms of the illness that are most difficult for patients.
- The treatment outcomes that are most important to patients.
- The most important aspects of the illness that patients would like the drug therapy to address.
- The shortcomings of existing therapies that the new drug is able to address.
- Other practical aspects of the illness that should be taken into consideration (e.g. associated costs of living with the disease).
- By prioritizing the most important aspects of the illness and treatment outcomes, patient evidence can help set the context for weighing the clinical and economic data.

## Experience to date

Patient evidence submission launched	April 2010
Number of patient groups that have registered	32
Number of drug reviews for which the ministry has invited patient submissions	39
Number of patient evidence submissions received	15 submissions from 12 different patient groups

Consensus among patient groups, CED members, ministry staff and other stakeholders that patient evidence is an important and valuable component of the drug review and funding process.

## Next Steps

- A work-in-progress.
- Your feedback and suggestions are important to us.
- Formal evaluation scheduled for April 2011.

# Questions & Comments

## **Contact Information:**

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## **Patient evidence submission:**

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/drugs/  
patient\\_evidence/guidelines.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/drugs/patient_evidence/guidelines.html)

## **Ontario Public Drug Programs:**

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/drugs/  
drugs\\_program\\_mn.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/drugs/drugs_program_mn.html)