

# Market Access in Canada

## 2021 Year in Review

January

### CADTH & pCPA

- First Ultra-Rapid and Living Rapid Reviews on COVID-19
- Launched Canadian Journal of Health Technologies
- Updated and aligned CDR, pCODR, and Interim Plasma Protein Product Review processes
- pCPA backlog due to the pandemic (~3 months)

### RWE

- CADTH expanded reconsideration process to allow submission of new data, including RWE
- CanREValue publishes *Considerations for Developing a Reassessment Process*
- Drug Safety and Effectiveness Network transitions to CADTH

March 10

NACI announced consultation on intent to add economic evidence into federal vaccine recommendations

March 23

Canada's First Digital Health Evaluation Network (CNDHE) and CADTH Watch List of emerging health technology trends

March 26

National Strategy for Drugs for Rare Diseases published *What We Heard* Report. Public consultation followed

May 5

COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 12-15 approved by HC

May 18

PDCI presented to ISPOR on the [Reimbursement of Oncology Companion Diagnostics](#) in Canada

### PRIVATE PAYERS

- Shifts in PBM and insurer relationships (Canada Life acquired Claim Secure - Sept. 2021)
- Insurers establish new partnerships (Sun Life and Lumino Health platform are rebranding as Sun Life Health - Sept. 2021)
- La Capitale and SSQ Insurance merge as Beneva
- PSHCP, the largest employer plan in moves to Canada Life

July 27

Advisory Panel by CADTH announced to provide HC with a framework for developing pan-Canadian prescription drug list

July 29

Federal Court of Appeal decided against PMPRB, in Alexion's SOLIRIS case

September 20

Canadians elected another Liberal minority government

October

Canada sought leave to appeal to the Supreme Court in PMPRB Soliris excessive-pricing case

October 5

PDCI issued 2021 update to [Census of Insurers](#), providing insights on 24 million privately insured Canadians

October 28

PMPRB clarified: patentees will have at least two reporting periods to comply with forthcoming changes, either under the current or new Guidelines

November 18

COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5-11 approved by HC

November 25

CADTH announced New Complex Review Process effective January 4, 2022 (Issue 26)

December 8

CADTH announced the pan-Canadian National Formulary consultation to occur in early 2022, with a webinar on January 18, 2022

December 10

PDCI published policy paper uncovering the hidden costs of [Take Home Cancer Drugs](#) in Canada

December 16

Incoming Health Minister Jean-Yves Duclos and Mental Health Minister Carolyn Bennett received mandate letters from Prime Minister

December 17

PMPRB announced it will NOT move forward with changes from July 15, 2021 Notice and Comment

December 23

Further delay to the PMPRB Guidelines and amended Regulations to July 1, 2022

December

### RARE DISEASE

- Undergoing development of a national strategy for high-cost drugs for rare diseases
- CADTH developed a framework for, and launched, its first condition-level review

### DIGITAL HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES STRATEGY

- The new CNDHE was launched to advance evaluation in digital health and enhance the healthcare experience
- ISED Budget 2021 provide \$2.2 billion towards implementing the Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences Strategy

### PMPRB

- Federal Court of Appeal (FCA) overturned Federal Court judicial review and quashed PMPRB decision on Alexion's Soliris
- Board's departure from Guidelines and requirement that the medicine price be lower than all seven comparator countries was unprecedented

## Trends to Watch in 2022

### PMPRB

- Expect continued uncertainty over the direction of the current guidelines and a possible renewal of consultations on price regulatory reforms

### PRIVATE PAYERS

- New digital solutions to automate services (e-prior authorizations and enhanced communication with physicians)
- Continued emphasis on HTA review process for new specialty products with a private market focus
- Expect more PLA requests for high-cost specialty drugs

### DIGITAL HEALTH

- Increasing interest and involvement from government into the digital health tech, notably with the Horizon Scanning Service and Evaluation Network

### FEDERAL HEALTH PRIORITIES

- Federal Health priority remains emergence from COVID-19 pandemic
- Some work continues engaging provinces towards national universal Pharmacare, and a national strategy on high-cost drugs for rare diseases

### RWE

- Continued discussions, investments in infrastructure, and defining RWE collection and use
- The feasibility of RWE will focus on its accreditation and regulation, along with its security and privacy

### INESSS & PCPA

- INESSS prioritization & waitlist, and pCPA backlog will not be resolved in the short term