Research Highlights

Assessing the Options for Pharmacare Reform

Several options for pharmacare reform in Canada have been studied and discussed throughout the years. Calls for national pharmacare are often rooted in the fact that Canada is among a handful of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries that does not provide comprehensive publicly-funded prescription drug coverage for all of its citizens (the others being Israel, Mexico and the United States). As a result, every province and territory and certain departments of the federal government has developed their own unique publicly funded prescription medication insurance plans. In addition, many private insurers offer insurance either as an employment benefit or for purchase by individuals. This has led to variability in prescription drug coverage across Canada that has contributed to challenges to patients and spending.

At the same time, there has been very little consensus on the right model for Canada and on how it should be implemented. These models have different potential impacts for impacted stakeholders. While some of the consequences of implementing particular models have been highlighted, to date there has been limited contrasting of these different potential models against the different intended impacts of national pharmacare, and consideration of any unintended consequences.

This forthcoming report, research and written by Michael Law, Research Chair in Access to Medicines, The University of British Columbia, Fiona Clement, Research Director on Health Technology Assessment, The University of Calgary, and Thy Dinh, Director of Health Economics and Policy at The Conference Board, sets out to review some of the proposed models for pharmacare reform as part of the Conference Board’s National Pharmacare Initiative. This report can be viewed as a primer in understanding some of the policy options as part of larger discussions on national pharmacare in Canada.

The models assessed in this report include:

1. University public coverage, including a) Comprehensive public coverage, b) Public coverage of essential medicines, and c) Income-based deductible public coverage
2. Targeted public coverage, including a) Individual mandate, and b) Optional public coverage.

The report is currently in review and is expected to be released early November.

Other briefings and reports, and their tentative release dates

- Health Care Aware: Understanding Pharmaceutical Costs and Pricing (Pre-release: September 20, Public release October 4)
- Assessing the Options for Pharmacare Reform (Public release: November 1)
- Patient Experiences with Accessing Necessary Medicines (Pre-release: November 8, Public release: November 22)
- The City Health Monitor 2018 (Pre-release: December 4, Public release: December 18)
- Future Care for Canadian Seniors: A Primer on Caregiving (Pre-release: December 7, Public release: December 14)
Upcoming Meeting and Event

**HTA Pharmacy Pricing Roundtable Meeting**

**October 30, 2018, The Conference Board of Canada, Boardroom Ottawa, Ontario**

**Roundtable Objectives:**
- Convene experts to present viewpoints and research, and have multiple key stakeholders attend to learn about the role of health technology assessment (HTA) in pharmaceutical pricing policy;
- Engage in a balanced discussion with participants and situate stakeholders with regards to their viewpoints on the issues and what they see as the next best steps forward; and
- To provide an opportunity for stakeholders to network and create linkages to support effective public policy.

**Confirmed speakers include:**
- Fred Horne, Chair, Former Alberta Health Minister and Principal, Horne and Associates
- Tanya Potashnik, Director, Economic Analyses and Policy Patented Medicine Review Board (PMPRB)
- Michael Drummond, Professor, Centre for Health Economics University of York, Heslington York, United Kingdom
- Durhane Wong-Rieger, President and Chief Executive Officer Canadian Organizations for Rare Disorders
- Janet Yale, President and Chief Executive Officer Arthritis Society
- Chander Sehgal, Executive Director, Access and Reimbursement Policy Innovative Medicines Canada

Additional information will be made available online as the program develops and can be found here. CASHC members have complimentary access to this event. For more details and to register, email Sylvie at blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca.

---

**The National Pharmacare Summit**

**November 22, 2018, Sheraton Centre Toronto, Ontario**

Addressing the pressure points on providing appropriate and timely access to needed medications will require fresh thinking about the broader health care system and the implications of different Pharmacare options from the perspectives of who can affect and are affected by the pharmaceutical landscape in Canada today and into the future.

The National Pharmacare Summit will convene government, payers, patients, policy-makers, industry and other senior key stakeholders to discuss potential models for National Pharmacare based on research, economic analysis and dialogue now underway. This neutral forum for deliberative dialogue and debate will also provide insights and understanding on the key issues related to National Pharmacare and options for Canada. Discussions aim to elucidate what we know about the current and alternative options for pharmacare.

**Confirmed speakers include:**
- André Picard, Health Columnist for The Globe and Mail
- Susan Black, President and CEO, The Conference Board of Canada
- Liz Fowler, Vice-President, Global Health Policy, Johnson & Johnson, United States and former advisor to the White House (The Affordable Care Act).
- Jeff Blackmer, Vice-President, Medical Professionalism Canadian Medical Association
- Greg Sutherland, Principal Economist, The Conference Board of Canada

Additional information will be made available online as the program develops and can be found here. CASHC members have complimentary access to this event. For more details and to register, email Sylvie at blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca.
At a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meetings, Events and Webinars</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates &amp; Times (EDT)</th>
<th>Registration Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canadian Health Workforce Conference Pre-Conference Workshop</strong></td>
<td>Gatineau</td>
<td>October 3, 1:00–4:00pm</td>
<td>Sylvie Blais-Tam – <a href="mailto:blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca">blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Better Workplace Conference 2018</strong></td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
<td>October 10-11, 2018</td>
<td>Sylvie Blais-Tam – <a href="mailto:blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca">blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health Care Aware: Understanding Pharmaceutical Costs and Pricing</strong></td>
<td>Webinar</td>
<td>October 17, 2:00pm EDT</td>
<td>Sylvie Blais-Tam – <a href="mailto:blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca">blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thinking About Infrastructure 2018 and Beyond Conference</strong></td>
<td>Ottawa</td>
<td>October 24-25, 2018</td>
<td>Sylvie Blais-Tam – <a href="mailto:blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca">blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Role of Health Technology Assessment in Pharmaceutical Pricing: Policy Roundtable</strong></td>
<td>Ottawa</td>
<td>October 30, 2018</td>
<td>Sylvie Blais-Tam – <a href="mailto:blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca">blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community Wellbeing: A Framework for the Design Professions</strong></td>
<td>Webinar</td>
<td>October 31, 2:00pm EDT</td>
<td>Sylvie Blais-Tam – <a href="mailto:blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca">blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Roundtable on Health Innovation</strong></td>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>November 20</td>
<td>Sylvie Blais-Tam – <a href="mailto:blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca">blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canadian Alliance for Sustainable Health Care Members Meeting</strong></td>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>November 21 (half-day)</td>
<td>Sylvie Blais-Tam – <a href="mailto:blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca">blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Pharmacare Summit</strong></td>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>Sylvie Blais-Tam – <a href="mailto:blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca">blais-tam@conferenceboard.ca</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Complimentary or Discounted Webinar Recordings

HEP members have access to recorded Conference Board webinars at no or reduced fee. Contact Natasha Chipilova at Chipilova@conferenceboard.ca and indicate which network you belong to.

Example webinars include:

- The Benefits of Early Optimized Treatment for Depression
- Marijuana and the Workplace: What Leaders and the Board Should Know
- Dealing with Difficult Behaviours and Personalities in the Workplace
- Canada’s Innovation Performance: Finding Rays of Light
- Value-Based Procurement of Innovative Medicines: Lessons from Five Cases
- Strategies for Mental Health Accommodations in the Workplace
- The Perfect Storm: Solutions to the Growing Health Human Resource Crisis
- Using Design Thinking to Scale Telemedicine: OTN’s Enhanced Access to Primary Care Initiative
- Market Access and Adoption of Disruptive Health Technologies
- Facing the Challenge of Marijuana in the Workplace

Follow us on Twitter!

Follow @CBoC_Health to receive updates from the Canadian Alliance for Sustainable Health Care, National Pharmacare Initiative, Health Innovation Roundtable, and Healthy Living Roundtable.

Follow @ConfBoardofCda for updates from The Conference Board of Canada’s corporate account.
Resources

Please contact us if you require access to any of the following resources. We would be happy to assist you.

All Health-Related Publications to Date

Most health publications are accessible to the general public at no charge. For all health-related publications from the Conference Board of Canada, visit our e-library.

Previous Health Events

Select health-related recorded webinars, presentations, and conference proceedings are available to our health portfolio members. A full listing can be found on our website.

Other Research & Reports

- Counting the Calories: Examining the Relationship Between Beverage Consumption and The Canadian Diet
- The Consequences of Patient Charges for Prescription Drugs in Canada: A Cross-Sectional Survey
- Principles for an Effective Pharmacare Program
- Healing an Ailing Pharmaceutical System: Prescription for Reform for United States and Canada
- Do Reimbursement Recommendation Processes Used by Government Drug Plans in Canada Adhere to Good Governance Principles?
- Impact of Income-Based Deductibles on Drug Use and Health Care Utilization Among Older Adults
- Blazing the Trail: What the Legalization of Cannabis Means for Canadian Employers
- Canada Falls in Conference Board’s Innovation Rankings, As Weaknesses Persist
- The Economic Footprint of The Community Pharmacy Sector: Pan-Canadian Series of Reports
- A Framework for Community Well-Being: Architecture and Design for Healthy Built Environments
- National Pharmacare In Canada Choosing A Path Forward
- Towards Implementation of National Pharmacare Discussion Paper
- Pharmacare Now: Prescription Medicine Coverage for All Canadians

News, Commentaries, and Other Events

- On health care, Maxime Bernier deserves to be heard
- The trouble with hospitalized seniors
- The startup CEO dragging Canadian health care into the future
- Is it true that intermittent fasting can cure type 2 diabetes?
- In a month, pot will be legal. But the list of rules has never been longer
- Canada’s poverty plan is public policy at its best
- It's not just the EpiPen. Canada had 25 new drug shortages this week alone
- Almost all Canadians would benefit from palliative care. Only one in seven can actually access it at end-of-life
- Transforming Nursing through Knowledge: SE Futures Book Club
- Why these university students love living with seniors
- Cardiac death rates 100% more than predicted? Sometimes numbers aren’t exactly what they seem
- How Discrimination Against Female Doctors Hurts Patients
- Why Health Care Innovation Needs Nurses
- Building health: Our communities’ designs strongly influence our physical well-being
- Young Canadians’ use of technology creating health-care ‘generation gap,’ doctors warn
- Safe injection sites were thought to reduce drug overdoses. The research isn’t so clear.

Follow us on Twitter!

Follow @CBoC_Health to receive updates from the Canadian Alliance for Sustainable Health Care, National Pharmacare Initiative, Health Innovation Roundtable, and Healthy Living Roundtable.

Follow @ConfBoardofCda for updates from The Conference Board of Canada’s corporate account.