

Post-Market Drug Evaluation

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I am pleased to highlight the launch of CADTH's [new Post-Market Drug Evaluation Program](#), which fills a key gap in Canada's drug safety and effectiveness landscape and represents an important opportunity for CADTH to expand its expertise in the real-world evidence space.

Currently, CADTH's Scientific Advice program offers pharmaceutical companies pre-market advice on their early drug development plans from a Canadian health technology assessment perspective, and our Reimbursement Review program provides public drug plans with reimbursement recommendations for drugs *entering the Canadian market*.

So, it makes sense that CADTH would expand its role in pharmaceutical management, and create a program to provide senior federal, provincial, and territorial decision-makers with evidence about the post-market safety, effectiveness, and appropriate use of drugs.

Drugs receive regulatory approval based on a series of clinical trials, often involving a limited number of people. However, once approved for market, the drugs are used by a wider range of people, many of whom have multiple medical conditions, are on multiple medications, and fall outside of the clinical trial inclusion criteria.

As a result, it is vital that we understand the long-term impact of each drug on a patient population by following the evidence about patients' drug utilization, health outcomes, and process of care.

The cornerstone of CADTH's Post-Market Drug Evaluation Program is the CoLab – an evidence generation network comprised of leading experts from across Canada in applied research, drug evaluation methodologies, and data analysis. It will answer questions from senior government decision-makers with timely and targeted evidence reviews based on real-world data.

The CoLab will have access to robust datasets, such as health system administrative data and patient registries, that it can link into and leverage to answer questions and measure how a drug works.

To increase the potential impact and benefits of the CoLab's work, knowledge mobilization is built into the program – information requested by 1 jurisdiction will be shared with other decision-makers across Canada.

The Post-Market Drug Evaluation Program will allow CADTH to determine if drugs used in a real-world setting are safe, work as intended, and are used appropriately, and help improve the quality of care people in Canada receive.