PUBLIC REIMBURSEMENT TIMELINES: A PANDEMIC SNAPSHOT



BACKGROUND

Canada has sequential drug approval, HTA, and reimbursement processes for new active substances (NAS), which can result in delays to patient access. This study examined how time to patient has evolved through the COVID-19 pandemic. It also examined reimbursement timelines associated with Health Canada-HTA "aligned reviews" in comparison to files that progress through the standard CADTH pre-NOC (notice of compliance) process.

METHODOLOGY

This study used regulatory approval data from Health Canada, CADTH Reimbursement Reviews, pCPA negotiations, and provincial drug plan listing dates compiled into a custom dataset by IQVIA. The dataset was current to March 31, 2022 and will be updated annually. 67 Health Canada-HTA aligned reviews were identified from the IQVIA Provincial Reimbursement Advisor weekly publication, with 55 reviews having data to calculate time from Health Canada submission to HTA recommendation.

CONCLUSIONS

There are increasing delays for patients to access new medicines, and Health Canada-HTA aligned reviews have not accelerated patient access vis-à-vis the existing pre-NOC pathway. The lack of time benefits may help to explain the lack of full uptake of the aligned review process and speaks to the ongoing need for aligned reviews to remain a voluntary process. A coordinated and collaborative effort to simplify and streamline the various stages of the reimbursement system could help to decrease delays for patients in accessing new medicines in Canada.







