CADTH RECOMMENDATIONS AS PREDICTORS FOR DRUG AVAILABILITY IN ONTARIO, BRITISH COLUMBIA, AND ALBERTA

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AGENDA

Relationship of CADTH to Provinces
Methods
Results
Discussion and Future Research
The Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) provides evidence-based advice about whether to include drugs in provincial formularies.

CADTH recommendations are NOT legally binding; each province’s health system uses the recommendations in a different way.

All Canadian provinces except for Quebec use CADTH recommendations.

Does a CADTH recommendation matter? How much?
FILTERING TO FIND THE RELEVANT REVIEWS

256 reviews

CADTH reviews*
published between 2005 and March 2014

130 reviews

CADTH Common Drug Reviews

94 reviews

Most current review for each drug and indication (82 drugs with 33 indications)

- Searched formulary websites of Ontario, BC, and Alberta for each of the 82 drugs
- Searched special access programs for alternate routes to drug availability
- Listed drugs were considered “available” unless the formulary entry specifically listed them as “not a benefit”

* Reviews were sourced from the Context Matters Reimbursement Risk Tracker. In RRT a “review” is an assessment of a single drug for a single indication. One published CADTH health technology assessment may yield multiple RRT reviews.
DRUGS WITH POSITIVE CADTH DECISIONS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE IN ALL THREE PROVINCES

Note: The level of availability in all three provinces reached levels of statistical significance (p<.001) using the chi-squared test. Population statistics as of July 1, 2013. Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM, table 051-0001. http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/demo02a-eng.htm
PROVINCES ARE LIKELY TO LIST DRUGS WITH POSITIVE CADTH DECISIONS

Note: The level of availability for drugs with positive decisions reached levels of statistical significance (p=.178) using the chi-squared test.
BUT A NEGATIVE DECISION DOES NOT PRECLUDE FORMULARY LISTING

Note: The level of availability for drugs with negative decisions reached levels of statistical significance (p=.08) using the chi-squared test.
SPECIAL ACCESS PROGRAMS ARE NOT JUST FOR DRUGS THAT RECEIVED NEGATIVE CADTH RECOMMENDATIONS

• We suspected that special access programs would primarily facilitate access to drugs not available through general formularies.

• This was incorrect; many drugs that received positive recommendations were available only through special access programs.

• Few drugs that received negative recommendations were available through special access programs.
DOES A POSITIVE CADTH RECOMMENDATION MATTER?

- Positive CADTH recommendations are very good predictors for drug availability in Alberta, British Columbia, and Ontario.
- Negative CADTH recommendations are comparatively poor predictors; a significant percentage of drugs with negative recommendations are still made available.

A POSITIVE CADTH RECOMMENDATION IS IMPORTANT BUT NOT ESSENTIAL.
Thank you.

Please visit Context Matters at Booth 109.

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Appendix
POSITIVE CADTH RECOMMENDATIONS ARE STRONGLY ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG AVAILABILITY IN ONTARIO

Note: The level of availability in Ontario reached levels of statistical significance (p<.001) using the chi-squared test.
POSITIVE CADTH RECOMMENDATIONS ARE STRONGLY ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG AVAILABILITY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Note: The level of availability in British Columbia reached levels of statistical significance (p<.001) using the chi-squared test.
POSITIVE CADTH RECOMMENDATIONS ARE STRONGLY ASSOCIATED WITH DRUG AVAILABILITY IN ALBERTA

Note: The level of availability in Alberta reached levels of statistical significance (p<.001) using the chi-squared test.