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Canadian Healthcare Association  
Association canadienne des soins de santé  
75 years of service / 75 années de service

## **Policy Positions Regarding Issues addressed by the National Pharmaceuticals Strategy**

### **BROAD POLICY POSITIONS**

(Approved by Board of Directors, June 2006)

In September 2004, Canada's First Ministers agreed to establish a ministerial task force to develop and implement a National Pharmaceuticals Strategy (NPS) and to report on their progress by June 30, 2006. CHA defines the following overall statement of belief with respect to the NPS.

- The federal government should review and, where necessary, strengthen their regulations and processes for reviewing and approving pharmaceuticals. Priority should be given to reviews of drugs with a high potential to improve health outcomes or to reduce health system costs.
- Federal, provincial, and territorial governments should establish pan-Canadian approaches for the management of pharmaceuticals.
- All Canadians should have access to pharmaceutical therapy.
  - Access should be equitable across the continuum and across jurisdictions.
  - Access should be based on both therapeutic and cost-effectiveness.
  - All Canadians should be protected against financial hardship.
- The management of pharmaceuticals should optimize patient and health system outcomes and sustainability of the pharmaceutical industry.
- The management of pharmaceuticals should support health providers and health organizations to facilitate optimal and appropriate pharmaceutical use. This includes, but is not limited to, information technology, changes in health delivery models, and continuing education.

- Federal, provincial, and territorial governments should establish an evaluation strategy to rigorously assess all initiatives implemented under the National Pharmaceuticals Strategy. This evaluation should assess the impact of various approaches to managing pharmaceuticals on patient and system outcomes and should determine their cost-effectiveness.
- Federal, provincial, and territorial governments should work to reduce duplication of efforts to regulate, monitor, and manage pharmaceuticals, while maintaining or improving the quality and the evidence-base of these efforts.
- Federal, provincial, and territorial governments, with appropriate industry partnerships, should fund data collection and analysis to support the management of pharmaceuticals.

The Canadian Healthcare Association is a leader in developing, and advocating for, health policy solutions that meet the needs of Canadians.

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