



Canadian HIV and Viral Hepatitis Pharmacists Network

Réseau Canadien des Pharmaciens en VIH et Hépatites Virales

2017-2018 EXECUTIVE

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January 22, 2018

Dear Terry Santoni and colleagues from CTAC,

As the chair of the Canadian HIV and Viral Hepatitis Pharmacists (CHAP) network, I am pleased to offer strong support from CHAP for CTAC's upcoming launch of an evidence-based campaign. One of CHAP's mission statements is to bring together pharmacists with a clinical and research focus in HIV and/or viral hepatitis to optimize patient outcomes. This campaign aligns with CHAP's philosophies and comprises seven calls to action to government and community leadership to adopt a more comprehensive vision of the state of the hepatitis C epidemic in Canada. The World Health Organization (WHO) states that treatment coverage for both chronic viral hepatitis B and C infection should reach 80% of eligible persons by 2030. Canada is currently lagging in terms of our commitment to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat as per World Health Organization 2030 targets. The WHO points out that few countries had national viral hepatitis strategies. However, Canada still lacks a national action plan around viral hepatitis. Thus, CTAC evidence-based campaign application has important implications for people living with viral hepatitis in Canada and from a public health strategy perspective. CHAP agrees that there is an important need to address the following points:

- New methods of testing need to be approved and implemented consistently across Canada—including point-of-care testing and rapid testing.
- Restrictive eligibility requirements to access medications need to change across Canada – including allowing General Practitioners to administer HCV treatment
- Action by the provincial drug plans to make formularies more consistent, and transparent, across Canada.
- Action by the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) to fix the lack of standardization around timelines for the negotiation of drugs, and enhance transparency around the decision-making process
- Action by provincial drug plans to address the time delay between the close of pCPA negotiations and the signing of Product Licensing Agreements with individual provincial and territorial formularies.
- Lower drug prices.
- A standalone hepatitis action plan.

Therefore, we strongly support this campaign and the establishment of a national action plan around viral hepatitis.

Sincerely

Dominic Martel, B.Pharm, M.Sc., CHAP chair 2017-2018

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