CADTH

Common Acronyms for All Who Are New to CADTH

To make it faster and easier for interested individuals to understand CADTH recommendations, reports, and CADTH Symposium presentations, we'd like to equip you with the meanings of these common acronyms. Welcome to the language of HTA and CADTH.

Acronym	What It Stands For	Details
AE	adverse event	An unwanted and usually harmful occurrence following treatment
BIA	budget impact analysis	Used to estimate the impact of adding a drug, device, or procedure to a public formulary or budget, based on cost and the number of people likely to receive treatment within a specific period of time
BSC	best supportive care	When the aim is to relieve symptoms and improve quality of life, rather than cure the disease
CADTH	Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health	An independent, not-for-profit organization responsible for providing Canada's health care decision-makers with objective evidence to help make informed decisions about the optimal use of drugs and medical devices in our health care system
CDEC	CADTH Canadian Drug Expert Committee	The expert committee of the CADTH Common Drug Review program that makes drug reimbursement recommendations
CDR	CADTH Common Drug Review	Reviews drugs and makes reimbursement recommendations to Canada's public drug plans
CI	confidence interval	The range around a result within which we would expect (with 90%, 95%, or 99% confidence) the true value to lie; the true value, however, may still lie outside this range
COI	conflict of interest	When judgment about one activity may be influenced, or be seen to be influenced, by competing interests or activity; COI may be intellectual, financial, or personal
CDx	companion diagnostic	Biomarker test used to identify if a select drug is likely to provide benefit for a particular patient before treatment begins

Acronym	What It Stands For	Details
CEA	cost-effectiveness analysis	Used in economic evaluations to compare treatments that differs in the magnitude of their outcomes; outcomes are expressed in natural terms such as life-years gained or adverse events avoided
CGP	CADTH pCODR Clinical Guidance Panel	Responsible for interpreting the clinical data and developing conclusions for the *Clinical Guidance Report* as part the CADTH pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review (pCODR); panels and members vary depending upon the type of cancer the drug reviewed treats
CMA	cost-minimization analysis	Used in economic evaluations to compare treatments that have similar clinical outcomes
CUA	cost-utility analysis	Used in economic evaluations to compare treatments when the outcomes are different; outcomes are expressed in quality-adjusted life-years to allow comparison between health technologies
DPAC	CADTH Drug Policy Advisory Committee	Representatives from public drug plans meet to provide strategic advice to CADTH on drug policy issues
EGP	CADTH pCODR Economic Guidance Panel	Responsible for assessing the economic evidence in the pCODR program
EQ-5D	EuroQol 5-Dimensions questionnaire	Used to measure health-related quality of life determined by an individual's level of functioning on five aspects of health: mobility, self-care, usual activities, pain/discomfort, and anxiety/depression
FPT	federal/provincial/territorial	CADTH receives funding from Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial governments, with the exception of Quebec
HC	Health Canada	The federal department responsible for helping the people of Canada maintain and improve their health
HRQoL	health-related quality of life	Aspects of quality of life that are affected by illness and its treatment, including physical, psychological, and social functioning
HTA	health technology assessment	Systematically evaluates the direct and intended effects of a health technology, as well as its indirect and unintended consequences; generally done to help others make a decision on a technology's use or purchase

Acronym	What It Stands For	Details
HTAi	Health Technology Assessment international	A scientific and professional society for all those who produce, use, or encounter HTA (including patients and citizens)
HTERP	CADTH Health Technology Expert Review Panel	Develops guidance on medical devices and diagnostic tests for Canadian health care decision-makers
HTM	health technology management	Management of drug and non-drug health technologies from pre-market development, to adoption and use, to obsolescence
ICER	incremental cost-effectiveness ratio	The result of a cost-effective analysis; the ratio is of the difference between the costs (in dollars) of two treatments and the difference in the outcomes
ICUR	incremental cost-utility ratio	Similar to ICER; costs are measured in dollars and benefits are measured in quality-adjusted life-years
INAHTA	International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment	A global network of public HTA agencies that promotes and supports cooperation, information sharing, and capacity building in HTA
INESSS	Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux	Provides Quebec's health care decision-makers with objective evidence on the adoption, use, and public-plan coverage of technologies, medications, and interventions; and develops guides to clinical practice for their optimal use
KMLO	CADTH Knowledge Mobilization and Liaison Officer team	Provides support to understand decision-makers' evidence needs, and provides tools and advice to turn evidence into action
LY	life-years	Estimate of the years of life the average person lives as a result of a health technology
MCID	minimal clinically important difference	Used to describe the smallest change in a treatment outcome that patients would identify as important and which might lead to a change in treatment
NOC	Notice of Compliance	Authorization given by Health Canada when regulatory requirements are met, allowing a pharmaceutical company to market a drug in Canada

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PAC	CADTH pCODR Advisory Committee	Provides strategic advice on cancer-specific issues to CADTH to ensure the pCODR program meets the needs of the provincial and territorial governments, and cancer agencies
PAG	CADTH pCODR Provincial Advisory Group	Representatives from public drug plans and provincial cancer agencies provide operational advice to ensure that the pCODR process and recommendations meet the evidence needs of decision-makers to guide funding decisions
pCODR	CADTH pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review	Reviews cancer drugs and makes reimbursement recommendations to Canada's public drug plans and provincial cancer agencies
pCPA	pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance	Negotiates with pharmaceutical companies to achieve greater value on drugs for publicly funded drug plans
pERC	CADTH pCODR Expert Review Committee	The expert committee of the CADTH pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review
POC	point of care	Point-of-care testing happens at or near where a patient is located rather than sending test samples to a medical laboratory
PLF	CADTH Patient Community Liaison Forum	Representatives from CADTH and patient group coalitions meet to share information and collaborate on broad issues relevant to patient groups
PMPRB	Patented Medicine Prices Review Board	Ensures the prices of patented medicines sold in Canada are not excessive compared to prices in other similar countries
PRO	patient-reported outcome	Information gathered directly from patients about how they feel or function
QALY	quality-adjusted life-year	Estimate of duration and quality of survival for an individual over an assumed time period
RCT	randomized controlled trial	A study design that randomly assigns participants into different treatment groups
RFA	Request for Advice	A formal process that enables drug plans to seek advice about a previous CDEC or pERC recommendation

Acronym	What It Stands For	Details
RHA	Regional Health Authority	How Canadian provincial governments administer and deliver public health care to residents; these may also be known as Health Authorities, or collectively as a Health Network or Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)
RR	CADTH Rapid Response	A CADTH report that provides health care decision-makers with up-to-date evidence tailored to meet specific needs
SA	CADTH Scientific Advice	A program that offers pharmaceutical companies advice on their early drug development plans from an HTA perspective
SEB	subsequent entry biologic	A new version of a biologic drug sold after the patent for the biologic drug has expired; also referred to as a biosimilar
SF-36	Short Form Health Survey 36-item questionnaire	A Medical Outcomes Study questionnaire of overall health status that assesses functional status, well-being, and quality of life
WDAE	withdrawal due to adverse event	Any adverse event that results in the patient stopping taking the drug during a clinical trial

More Resources:

HTAi consumer and patient glossary: a guide to words used in HTA available from the HTAi Interest Group on Patient and Citizen Involvement
http://www.htai.org/interest-groups/patient-and-citizen-involvement.html

International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment Glossary, a collaborative effort between the International Network of Agencies for Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA), Health Technology Assessment international (HTAi), and other partner organizations
http://htaglossary.net