



The Arthritis Society
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Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB)
333 Laurier Avenue West, Suite 1400
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1C1

Re: PMPRB submission to the Guideline on Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (GMEP)

Dear PMPRB Board Members,

The mission of the Arthritis Society is to improve the lives of the 6 million Canadians living with arthritis and an important component of our work is engaging in policy discussions that impact the arthritis community, including access to treatment and care and research.

As outlined in our previous submissions, medicines play a vital and often life-changing role in the management of arthritis. Due to the nature of the disease, many arthritis patients experience episodic disabilities as their symptoms become uncontrolled, during which time they are unable to work and have a poorer quality of life.

While we support the goal of improving affordability and ensuring sustainability of Canada's public drug programs, we continue to have concerns about the potential impact the new Guidelines will have on medications being launched in Canada and clinical trials being conducted here.

People with arthritis rely on innovative and potentially transformative therapeutics including biologics and precision medicines, which hold significant promise in treatment. Research and development, including clinical trials, supported by government, industry and health charities in Canada is vital to finding new therapies and treatment options for people living with arthritis. It is also critical that arthritis patients have access to a variety of therapies as the disease requires much trial and error to find the right treatment.



We are pleased that the PMPRB developed the Guideline Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (GMEP), one of our earlier recommendations, and has asked for feedback. We are particularly interested in the Section II Access. We support the proposed focus on clinical trial intensity, availability of new medications and system coordination, including reimbursement. We believe monitoring and evaluating the impact of the Guidelines in these areas is critical to determining whether, or not, the Guidelines are creating unintended negative consequences to access.

We strongly believe the GMEP should include the patient voice and in the current plan we do not see how it is being incorporated. We recommend the PMPRB include patients directly either in an advisory capacity or include in the GMEP that consultations with patients will take place to learn about the impact on access from their perspective. We also recommend that a timeline for the first report be included in the GMEP.

Thank you for considering our comments and we would welcome the opportunity to provide additional input as the GMEP is further developed and implemented. We look forward to future collaboration and engagement with the PMRPB and other stakeholders on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Trish Barbato".

Trish Barbato
President and CEO

About the Arthritis Society

The Arthritis Society is Canada's largest charitable source of investment in cutting-edge arthritis research, and a leader in proactive advocacy, education and support towards delivering better health outcomes for people affected by arthritis. Safety and improved care are our top priorities, with our advocacy focused on improving access to care, timeliness of care, and innovative research. The Arthritis Society is accredited under Imagine Canada's Standards Program.