

Pan-Canadian Health Technology Assessment Collaborative — Strategic Goals and Objectives

The pan-Canadian Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Collaborative (PCC) brings together representatives from provincial and pan-Canadian HTA organizations. Current members of the collaborative include Ontario Health (Quality), Institut National d'Excellence en Santé et en Services Sociaux (INESSS), the Institute of Health Economics (IHE), the British Columbia Health Technology Assessment Office (BC-HTAO), and CADTH.

The collaborative's strategic goals are to share best practices in HTA and minimize the duplication of effort through the sharing of information. Collaborative members will review goals and objectives annually, and update them as necessary.

Share best practices in HTA

The collaborative aims to share work, resources, and expertise among the organizations. This will enhance efficiency, promote advancement and alignment in processes for emerging areas, and promote optimal resourcing for collaborative projects. Specific initiatives to address this goal are:

- **Methods discussion and development**

The collaborative will continue to engage in discussions about HTA methods. A methods working group of the collaborative will ensure discussions are held about complex methods and emerging areas (such as assessments for digital health).

- **Sharing expertise and resources**

Resources with specific expertise have been involved in projects with other members of the collaborative. For example, CADTH's ethics expertise and resources were leveraged for an ethics analysis to supplement a clinical and economic review by OH(Q). Further brokering of expertise from collaborative members will be planned, enabling efficiency.

- **Capacity building**

The collaborative will look for ways to share best practices through joint webinars, workshops, and other opportunities.

- **Expanding the PCC membership**

Other HTA organizations exist in Canada who may be interested in participating in joint HTA initiatives. Currently, the collaborative includes five HTA organizations. An [Environmental Scan](#) of HTA organizations and collaboration in Canada identified 44 HTA organizations in the country. The collaborative is developing a plan for expansion, including membership criteria, and processes for identifying potential members.

Minimize duplication of effort through the sharing of information

The collaborative aims to work together on projects to reduce duplication of effort and ensure each organization is aware the others' work and priorities. Although each organization has specific projects that are unique to their customer or stakeholder needs, the collaborative strives to share work, and confirm impact and need within each member jurisdiction. Specific initiatives to address this goal are:

- **Topic sharing and tracking**

The collaborative uses a web-based tool to track and monitor topics under consideration, in progress, and completed by member organizations. We will continue to improve the tool and our methods for sharing topics.

- **Increase the number of collaborative projects**

The collaborative projects completed in 2019 and projects under way are reported in Appendix 1. These were projects in which each collaborating organization shared resources and tasks to complete the HTA, with publication and recommendation development by each organization. The collaborative aims to increase the number of collaborative projects completed in 2020.

- **Brokering and sharing resources**

Past projects conducted by one organization may be used by other members of the collaborative, whole or in part, to support the work of that organization and committee. Appropriate permissions and citations are required. In addition, sharing of resources and expertise is conducted, with one organization providing models, review, or expertise to support another organization's project. In 2019, work from member organizations was brokered and shared by other members of the collaborative for recommendations development by their committees (Appendix 1: Collaborative and Shared Work). The collaborative aims to increase the brokering opportunities and ensure continued sharing of resources to enable these opportunities. This will include enhancing the engagement between researchers and other staff at all levels of member organizations and providing opportunities to share our understanding of the data and literature.

- **Involvement in HTA**

The collaborative aims to participate in HTA produced by members of the collaborative. This participation may include peer-review of project plans or protocols, sharing of resources, synchronizing methods and timelines, or general status updates for awareness.

Appendix 1: Collaborative and Shared Work

Project	Organizations	Collaboration, shared resources, or brokering	Date
Completed			
Experiences and Perspectives on Treatment for Pancreatic Disease	BC-HTAO and CADTH	Shared resources	June 2020
Off-Loading Devices for People with Diabetic Neuropathic Foot Ulcers	BC-HTAO and CADTH	Shared resources	June 2020
Experiences and Perspectives of Treatments for Heart Valve Disease	BC-HTAO and CADTH	Shared resources	June 2020
Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation for Treatment Resistant Depression	BC-HTAO and CADTH	Shared resources	May 2020
Flash glucose monitoring system for people with type 1 or type 2 diabetes	OH(Q), CADTH, INESSS, BC-HTAO	Shared resources, brokering	December 2019
Genome-wide sequencing for unexplained developmental impairment and multiple congenital anomalies	OH(Q) and CADTH	Shared resources	November 2019
Internet-delivered cognitive behaviour therapy for major depressive disorder and anxiety disorders	OH(Q) and CADTH	Collaboration	July 2019
Psychotherapy and Pharmacotherapy for Major Depressive Disorder and Generalized Anxiety Disorder	BC-HTAO and CADTH	Shared resources	June 2019
PET-CT for Cardiology	BC-HTAO and CADTH	Shared resources	March 2019
Optimal use of minimally invasive glaucoma surgery	OH(Q) and CADTH	Collaboration	March 2019
Prostatectomy for People with Prostate Cancer	BC-HTAO and CADTH	Shared resources	November 2019
Gene expression Profiling Tests for Early-Stage Invasive Breast Cancer	OH(Q), IHE, CADTH	Shared resources	November 2019
Tisagenlecleucel and axicabtagene ciloleucel CAR-T cell therapy assessments	CADTH and INESSS	Shared resources (synchronized timelines, process, and information sharing)	January 2019; August 2019
MitraClip	CADTH, INESSS, OH(Q), BC	Collaboration and brokering	Complete for INESSS and OH(Q); upcoming for BC
In Progress and in Development			
rTMS for treatment resistant depression	BC and OH(Q) (and brokering U of C HTA)	Collaboration and brokering	Under way
PET-CT	BC, INESSS, CADTH	Brokering	Under way
Stepped model of care for GAD and MDD	OH(Q) and BC	Shared resources (advised on model)	Under way
Minimally invasive treatment for varicose veins	BC and OH(Q)	Brokering	Under way
I – Stent	OH(Q), CADTH, and INESSS	Shared resources	In development

Project	Organizations	Collaboration, shared resources, or brokering	Date
Non-invasive fetal RhD blood group genotyping	OH(Q) and CADTH	Shared resources (CADTH completed Qualitative rapid review)	In development
Pigmented lesion assay for suspected melanoma lesions	OH(Q) and CADTH	Shared resources (CADTH completed qualitative rapid review)	In development
Pharmacogenomic testing for selection of psychotropic drugs	OH(Q) and CADTH	Shared resources (CADTH completing qualitative rapid review)	In development
DPYD genotyping in patients with planned cancer treatment with fluoropyrimidines	OH(Q) and CADTH (and INESSS)	Shared resources (CADTH completing qualitative review)	In development
Internet-delivered cognitive behavioural therapy for post traumatic stress disorder	OH(Q) and CADTH	Brokering	In development
Nonthermal endovenous treatments for varicose veins	OH(Q) and BC-HTAO	Shared resources	In development
Robot assisted prostatectomy	OH(Q) and University of Calgary for BC-HTAO	Shared resources (OH(Q) shared their economic model with U of C)	Work shared in 2019. U of C work in development

BC-HTAO = British Columbia Health Technology Assessment Office; CADTH = Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health; CAR = chimeric antigen receptor; GAD = generalized anxiety disorder; HTA = health technology assessment; IHE = Institute of Health Economics; INESSS = Institut National d'Excellence en Santé et en Services Sociaux; MDD = major depressive disorder; OH(Q) = Ontario Health (Quality); rTMS = repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation; U of C = University of Calgary.