

# CMA response to patented medicines regulations consultations

<https://policybase.cma.ca/link/policy13690>

POLICY TYPE Response to consultation  
DATE 2017-06-28  
TOPICS Pharmaceuticals, prescribing, cannabis, drugs

## Documents



June 28, 2017

Health Canada  
Patented Medicines Regulations Consultation  
70 Colborne Drive West, Tunney's Pasture  
Mail Stop 9910, Floor 10  
Briscoe Chaceon Building  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0K9

To Whom It May Concern:

The Canadian Medical Association (CMA) is pleased to provide its comments with respect to Health Canada's Patented Medicines Regulations Consultation. The CMA is the national voice of Canadian physicians. Founded in 1907, the CMA's mission is helping physicians care for patients. The CMA is a voluntary professional organization representing the majority of Canada's physicians and comprising 12 provincial and territorial divisions and over 60 national medical organizations.

As the second largest share of total health expenditures in Canada, forecast to be 16% in 2016, the cost of drugs is of significant concern to physicians.<sup>1</sup> In 2014, 42.6% of prescribed drug spending (\$12.5 billion) came from the public sector.<sup>2</sup> Pharmaceuticals play an important role in preventing disease and maintaining health but access to these drugs can be problematic outside of hospital care due to their cost. This is why the CMA has called for a pan-Canadian system of catastrophic coverage for prescription drugs.<sup>3</sup> We viewed this as a step toward the development of comprehensive, universal coverage for prescription medicines in Canada.<sup>4</sup>

1. 2015 National Health Expenditures Trends 1979-2014, December 15, 2016.  
2. Ibid.  
3. Canadian Medical Association (CMA), A New Path for Health Care in Canada: Addressing the Needs of an Aging Population - 2014. For Further Information on the Member of Parliament, Ottawa: The Association, 2014, Feb. 22.  
4. Ibid.

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