What Canadians are saying about Pharmacare

ADVOCACY & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Majority Support Inclusion of Pharmacy Services

AS PART OF ITS PHARMACARE 2.0 INITIATIVE, the Canadian Pharmacists Association (CPhA) published a national survey on Canadian attitudes towards pharmacare. The survey, conducted by Abacus Data in July 2015, revealed that a strong majority of Canadians support the concept of a pan-Canadian pharmacare program, but they don't necessarily want it to replace their existing private prescription drug plans. Most Canadians expressed concerns that a pan-Canadian pharmacare program could leave them fewer options and benefits than their current private plans. Canadians were also concerned about government's ability to administer the plan and the increased costs to government if such a program resulted in increased prescription drug use.

According to the survey, Canadians also want a pharmacare program that covers more than medications, with a strong majority of Canadians indicating that they believe a pan-Canadian pharmacare program should cover the services and health advice provided by pharmacists.

"There is a clear consensus—Canadians support the idea of a pharmacare program that ensures no Canadian is without adequate coverage for necessary medications and pharmacy services," says Perry Eisenschmid, CEO, Canadian Pharmacists Association. "Canadians recognize that access to medications is only one component of a sustainable pharmacare model and support the vital role that pharmacists and pharmacy services have in optimal drug therapy and improving health outcomes."

Renewed national discussion on pharmacare requires clear evidence for policy makers and a clear national consensus on priorities important to Canadians. CPhA, as the national voice of Canadian pharmacists, is committed to

KEY SURVEY RESULTS

- 79% of Canadians support the idea of a pan-Canadian pharmacare program
- 74% of Canadians are concerned about replacing their current private prescription drug plan with a public plan that would have fewer choices
- 85% of Canadians are concerned about the ability of government to administer the plan efficiently and effectively
- 79% of Canadians are concerned about increased cost to government if patients use more prescription drugs than they do now
- 78% of Canadians feel that pharmacare should also cover services provided by pharmacists to dispense, monitor and counsel patients on effective drug use
- 77% believe that pharmacare should cover other health advice and services provided by pharmacists, such as vaccines, smoking cessation services, managing minor ailments (ambulatory conditions), medication reviews and screening for medical conditions, such as diabetes

gathering this evidence and building consensus. These findings will help CPhA launch a Health Care Consensus Working Group with partners in the broader health care community during the next phase of the Pharmacare 2.0 initiative and culminate with the working group unveiling its model for pan-Canadian pharmacare in 2016 with the publication of the Pharmacare 2.0 White Paper.

For more info on CPhA's Pharmacare 2.0 initiative, please visit www.pharmacists.ca/pharmacare. ■