

What is new?

Pharma & Market Access News Digest

**4 ARTICLES YOU SHOULD
KNOW ABOUT**



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Delayed Again: Canada Delays Pricing Reform until January 2022

Major changes to the Canadian pricing system were originally due to be implemented on January 1st of this year but were delayed until July 1st. Two days before the new deadline Patty Hajdu, the Canadian Health Minister, announced another delay. This time until January 1st 2022.

The reform sets out to update Canada's international reference pricing basket by removing two higher priced markets (US and Switzerland) and adding Australia, Belgium, Japan, Netherlands, Norway and Spain to the new basket of 11 countries. The new basket also includes the UK, Germany, Italy, France and Sweden.

Furthermore, the regulation requires pharmaceutical companies to provide new pharma economic data and is predicted to save the country \$13 billion over the next decade. However, manufacturers warn that it could deter new drug launches.



Read more:

<https://bit.ly/2TtcAxL>



The Access Consortium's New Strategic Plan

The Access Consortium is a global consortium of government agencies who regulate medicines from Australia, Canada, Singapore, Switzerland and the UK, representing a total population base of 150 million. Their aim is to align regulatory and policy approaches, reduce duplication and facilitate access to medicines

Its recently published strategic plan for 2021 – 2024 focuses on 3 key objectives:

- **Strengthening access work-sharing initiatives**
 - Including capturing and developing the agile regulatory processes and learnings that have evolved as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Expanding lifecycle approach**
 - Including the exploration of real-world data and real-world evidence in clinical trial design and regulatory approaches.
- **Regulatory innovation that integrates a healthcare systems approach.**
 - Including the exploration of an aligned 'systems' approach to regulating innovative products.



Read more:

<https://bit.ly/3hiyxse>



WHO Highlights Risks of AI in Healthcare

Although the benefits of AI technologies are already being observed in many areas, including disease diagnosis and hospital management, the World Health Organization (WHO) cautions against over-optimism and highlights the need to put “ethics and human rights at the heart of their development” in a new guideline: ‘Ethics and Governance of Artificial Intelligence for Health’.

The guideline outlines 6 ethical risks of such technologies and provides recommendations for how these could be governed to ensure maximum benefits. Key concerns revolve around:

- unethical collection and use of patient data,
- biased algorithms,
- and patient safety.



Read more:

<https://bit.ly/3jMO1X4>



Senate Finance Chair Shares Recommendations for US Drug Pricing

Senate Finance Chair Ron Wyden has published his recommendations for improving the US drug pricing system. His suggestions include:

1. Empowering Medicare to negotiate with pharma companies

Ron Wyden highlights the need to improve negotiations as he observes new drugs entering the market at unprecedented prices, “like the recently-approved Alzheimer’s drug Aduhelm, launch(ed) at prices far beyond any reasonable justification of the clinical value to patients, caregivers, or society”.

- 2. Lowering drug prices for Americans purchasing medicines at the drug counter.**
- 3. Penalizing companies whose drug prices rise higher than the rate of inflation.**
- 4. Extending drug price reforms to all Americans, including those covered by employer and commercial health plans.**
- 5. Ensuring drug pricing rewards innovation, not clever patent play.**



Read more:

<https://politi.co/3dJlpu4>

