Canada's Drug and Health Technology Agency

Health Technology Review

Procedures for Integrated Technology Reviews for Drugs

January 2023

1. Introduction

1.1 About Integrated Technology Reviews

An Integrated Technology Review, formerly published as an Optimal Use 360 review, facilitates health policy decision-making by outlining policy and/or formulary management guidance (e.g., changes in reimbursement criteria or listing status) which are derived from the summary and key findings of relevant CADTH reports and literature within a therapeutic area or area(s). Integrated Technology Reviews aim to provide a multifaceted approach to policy implications. The CADTH reports summarized within an Integrated Technology Review may include products related to the therapeutic landscape, clinical effectiveness, safety, drug utilization, and when applicable, economic analyses.

The objective of Integrated Technology Reviews is to anticipate the needs of decision-makers and unleash the value of drugs across their lifespan by maximizing the value of existing technologies. Integrated Technology Reviews aim to identify and assess developments within an evolving drug landscape; identifying key gaps in the existing evidence and predict challenges within the health system. Evidence for drugs (clinical effectiveness, safety, utilization) continues to evolve following initial formulary listing, which can impact the current treatment paradigm and the potential use of newer agents on the horizon. Integrated Health Technology Reviews provide an avenue to anticipate the impact on decision-makers, keep decision-makers well-informed, and support changes to health policies and formularies.

Integrated Technology Review reports may provide the foundation that is required to identify the need for federal, provincial, and territorial governments, public drug plans (federal, provincial, and territorial [FPT]s) to request further review in the form of a CADTH Drug Class Review or Therapeutic Review.

1.2 Target Audience

CADTH Integrated Technology Reviews are produced for federal, provincial, and territorial governments, public drug plans (FPTs), their relevant agencies and health policy-makers at regional health authorities and hospitals in Canada who make decisions about the access to, or reimbursement of, drugs.

2. Eligibility, Scoping, and Topic Refinement

2.1 Drug Eligibility

Any drug, drug class, or therapeutic area is eligible for review under an Integrated Technology Review.

Topics under consideration can be found on the CADTH website.

2.2 Scoping and Topic Refinement

Topics for an Integrated Technology Review, and project components to be included, will be developed in consultation with FPTs to ensure alignment with the policy question(s) and to take into account implementation considerations. During the scoping phase, a literature search will assess the extent of information that is available in the following possible domains:

- CADTH reports
- grey literature search
- health technology assessments
- Canadian and international clinical guidelines
- clinical trials and systematic reviews
- utilization and expenditure analyses.

When supplemental evidence is identified outside of CADTH reports that fill an identified knowledge gap, CADTH will review this information and reference findings directly within the Integrated Technology Review report. When appropriate, CADTH may collaborate with organizations such as claims databases, policy networks, and/or health information institutions to gain insights for health decision-makers.

A project scope document will be created to outline the topic under consideration, the proposed policy question(s), research question(s), and the proposed project components that will be used to inform key findings and policy guidance. The project scoping document will be posted on the CADTH website for stakeholder feedback (for a period of 10 business days). Any stakeholders may comment on the proposed project scope. In consultation with FPTs and considering the stakeholder feedback received, CADTH will refine the proposed project scope and obtains final advice from FPTs on whether to proceed.

3. Project Components

Integrated Technology Reviews are designed to be fit for purpose and tailored based on the policy question and needs identified. The composition of Integrated Technology Reviews consists of 3 main areas, as outlined in Table 1: Treatment Landscape, Clinical Review, and economic analyses.

3.1 Project Components

Table 1. Potential Project Components and Example Reports

Project components	Examples of CADTH reports or published literature
Treatment landscape	• CADTH Environmental Scan report • CADTH Utilization Analysis report • CADTH Horizon Scan report • International clinical guidelines • Technology reviews by international health technology assessment (HTA) agencies
Clinical review (efficacy and safety)	• CADTH Utilization Analysis report (may be completed in collaboration with health information organizations)

	• CADTH Rapid Response report(s) or Technology Reviews • Clinical trials and head-to-head studies • Systematic review(s)
Economic analyses	• Cost comparison • Budget impact analysis (BIA) and/or tool • Appraisal of existing cost-utility analysis or de novo cost-utility analysis

3.2 Economic Analyses

The type of economic analysis will be tailored based on the policy question(s) and respective research question(s) identified through scoping and refinement with FPTs. If applicable, CADTH will provide a summary of relevant existing economic reports or incorporate economic analyses directly into the Integrated Technology Review report.

4. Transparency and Stakeholder Engagement

CADTH notifies interested parties that an Integrated Technology Review has been initiated and outlines target dates for providing feedback by posting a notice to the Calls for Feedback webpage of the CADTH website and issuing an email to subscribers of the CADTH E-Alert service. Interested parties are asked to complete an input template, which is available on the CADTH website. CADTH provides 10 business days for stakeholders to provide feedback at the following stages:

- proposed project scope (refer to Section 2.2)
- draft report.

A draft report will also be shared with members of the appropriate CADTH Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee, Formulary Working Group for Health Technology Assessments (FWG-HTA) or Provincial Advisory Group. The topic area of the report will dictate which Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee is most appropriate.

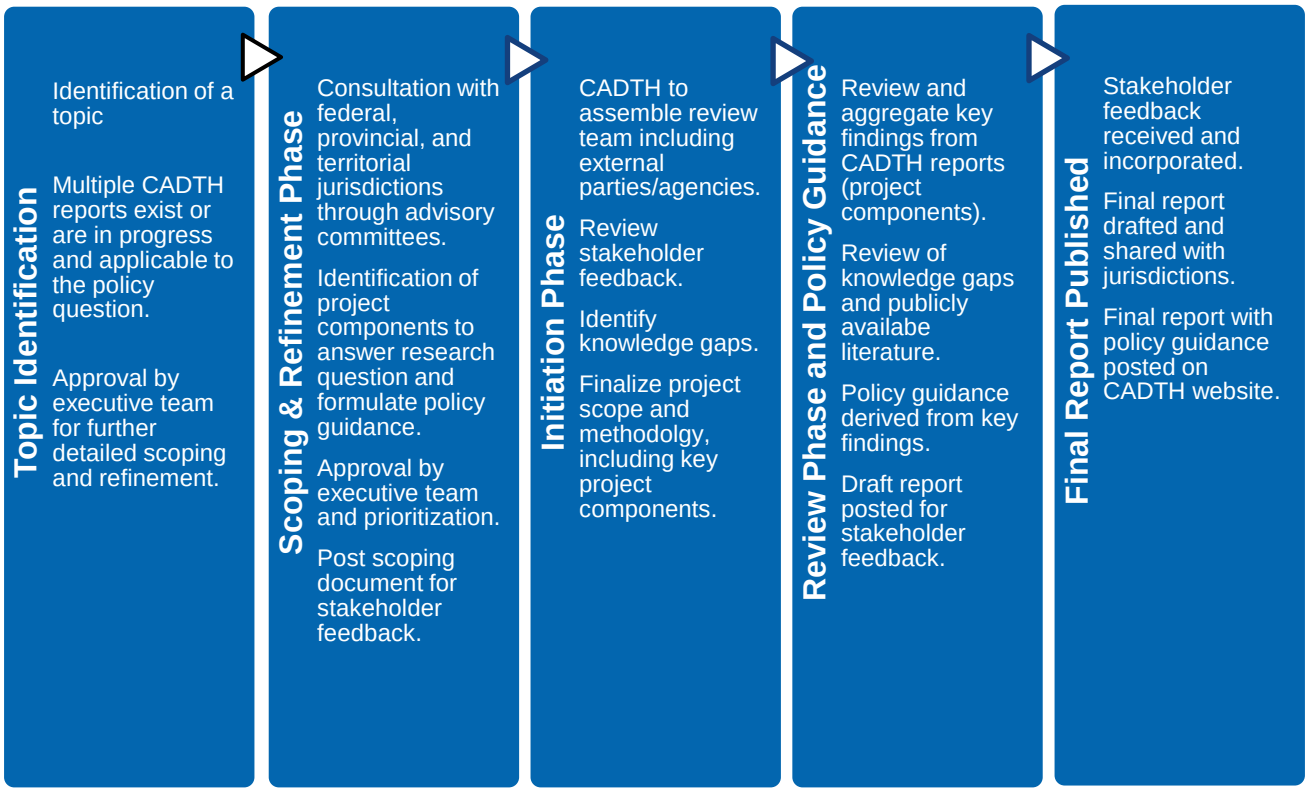
Final Integrated Technology Reviews are posted on the CADTH website for anyone to access and review.

5. Target Timelines

The typical time frame for the development of an Integrated Technology Review is 90 to 120 days. Exact timelines will be determined by CADTH, in consultation with jurisdictions.

Figure 1: Overview of Integrated Technology Review Process

The figure depicts the overall process of an Integrated Technology Review from start to completion. Each sequential phase of the review procedure is described from left to right.



Revision History

Periodically, this document will be revised as part of ongoing process improvement activities and methods updates. The following version control table, as well as the version number and date on the cover page, is to be updated when any changes are made.

Section	Version number	Date	Description of changes
All	1.0	January 2023	First version of document released