



Mood Disorders Society of Canada

La Société Pour **Les Troubles de L'Humeur** du Canada

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The Mood Disorders Society of Canada Calls for Improved Access to Mental Health Medications

November 4, 2010 – How can Canadians recover from mental illness when discriminatory funding for mental health medications by government does not adequately fund access to medication.

A newly released International Report points out Canada's disappointing record on access to medication. The Rx&D International Report on Access to Medicines looked at the accessibility of medicines available in Canada and compared the finding to 28 other countries. The results showed Canada ranked 23rd out of 29, ahead of only Poland, New Zealand, Luxemburg, Spain, Japan and Turkey and behind Mexico, the Czech Republic and the Republic of Korea. Canada's overall ranking has changed little year-over-year. Last year, Canada reimbursed fewer drugs than the average for all countries studied and ranked between Iceland and Turkey.

Reimbursement of Drugs by Disease Category International Average 1

(Taken from Wyatt Health Management (2010). *The Rx&D International Report on Access to Medicines, 2009/2010*, p 37).

Therapeutic Area	Number of Indications	Positive CEDAC Recommendation	CA Average	International Average (1)
Addiction	3	100%	44%	65%
Arthritis	7	100%	78%	61%
Urology	4	100%	75%	68%
HIV/AIDS	13	92%	80%	73%
Blood Disorders	5	75%	57%	67%
Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension	4	75%	56%	66%
Cardiovascular	10	70%	60%	53%
Dermatology	4	67%	54%	39%
Ophthalmology	3	67%	67%	77%
Infectious Diseases	11	64%	56%	60%
Gastrointestinal	4	50%	46%	56%
Women's Health	8	38%	38%	54%
Neurology	18	28%	28%	51%
Diabetes	8	25%	42%	88%
Rare Disorders	7	17%	27%	61%
Mental Health	8	13%	30%	52%

(1) **Positive Reimbursement Percentage** is based on all available drugs and indications (181) that are available in Canada.

Reimbursement of Drugs by Disease Category International Average 2

(Taken from Wyatt Health Management (2010). *The Rx&D International Report on Access to Medicines, 2009/2010*, p 39).

Therapeutic Area	Number of Indications	Positive CEDAC Recommendation	Canadian Average	International Average (2)
Addiction	3	100%	44%	80%
Arthritis	7	100%	78%	85%
Urology	4	100%	75%	91%
HIV/AIDS	13	92%	80%	90%
Blood Disorders	5	75%	57%	92%
Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension	4	75%	56%	85%
Cardiovascular	10	70%	60%	92%
Dermatology	4	67%	54%	89%
Ophthalmology	3	67%	67%	87%
Infectious Diseases	11	64%	56%	86%
Gastrointestinal	4	50%	46%	92%
Women's Health	8	38%	38%	73%
Neurology	18	28%	28%	88%
Diabetes	8	25%	42%	97%
Rare Disorders	7	17%	27%	76%
Mental Health	8	13%	30%	92%

(2) **Positive Reimbursement Percentage** is based only on the drugs and indications available in each specific jurisdiction.

The report clearly shows how access to mental health medications falls far below the needs and expectations of Canadians. In the areas of Addiction treatments, Women's Health, Neurology, and Mental Health, Canada's public drug plan reimbursement is far behind that of other countries.

To view the complete report:

http://www.patientscomefirst.ca/inc/pdfs/RxD_InternationalReport_2010_en.pdf