

What Constitutes a Drug Policy Project?

A project that is relevant to Ontario Public Drug Program's policy-makers may include:

- Drug plan costs as a function of drug policy decisions. For example, addition / deletion from formulary, change in listing status of drugs on formulary (e.g., limited use to general benefit), or impact of changing the prescribing of a drug (e.g., policy which allows only certain health care providers to prescribe a specific drug).
- Changes in drug utilization, including studies examining predictors of changes in drug utilization, temporal utilization trends and geographic distribution, particularly related to high-cost drugs.
- Understanding utilization, adherence and provincial plan costs of drugs within a specific class to understand the implications of adding a new expensive drug to the formulary within that class/with a similar indication. Appropriateness of characteristics of patients using particular drugs and the physicians who prescribe them (e.g., proportion of drug use that is being used for the approved indication compared to off-label use).
- Economic evaluations of selected drug therapies, including budget impact analyses as well as traditional health economic evaluations (the model estimates may come from population-based administrative databases at ICES).
- Assessment of system level interventions to determine if they have had an impact on improving the health of populations with respect to drug efficacy, safety, and cost.
- Knowledge translation initiatives. For example, testing interventions to increase awareness and uptake of study results by physicians and patients.

Other projects with clear policy relevance will also be considered.

These projects may also include some clinical aspects (e.g., comparative effectiveness and/or drug safety); however it is important for them to include policy aspects as well in order to demonstrate relevance to Ontario Public Drug Program's policy-makers.