**What is overactive bladder (OAB)?**

- OAB is a health condition characterized by problems in bladder storage that causes a sudden urge to urinate, in some patients this may result in urinary incontinence (incontinence). It is a common condition that is more prevalent in the elderly.

**Why review drugs used to treat OAB?**

There are some key areas of public health concern with drugs used to treat OAB:

- **Efficacy**
  - Drugs used to treat OAB
  - Anticholinergics (also known as antimuscarinics) are the main drug class used to treat OAB; there are six of them available in Canada.
  - Mirabegron is another drug, from a different drug class, that is being increasingly used. It became available in March 2013.
  - Anticholinergics include: oxybutynin, tolterodine, fesoterodine, darifenacin, solifenacin, and trospium.
  - Oxybutynin is the intended first choice for treatment but only small proportions of patients are tried on this drug first, before other products, despite this being a part of the criteria for Limited Use coverage.
  - In Ontario, only a small proportion of patients are tried on oxybutynin first, before other products, despite this being a part of the criteria for Limited Use coverage.

- **Cost**
  - Differences in safety outcomes.
  - While the drugs have similar efficacy but have varying differences in safety outcomes.

- **Utilization**
  - Overall, the drugs have similar efficacy but have varying differences in safety outcomes.
  - Usage of OAB medications in Ontario
  - Oxybutynin, solifenacin, and tolterodine ER are considered first line therapy based on effectiveness analysis was needed.

- **Other recommendation**
  - No listing is recommended for oxybutynin extended release (Gelsique) under the Exceptional Access Program.

**Reimbursement option**

- Oxybutynin gel (Gelsique) under the Exceptional Access Program
- Oxybutynin gel is better than placebo but no more effective than other OAB medications; as well, patients unable to swallow.
  - This note should be added for all anticholinergic agents used for management of OAB (including oxybutynin IR).
  - Contains a list of the most cost-effective drugs used to treat OAB.

**Other recommendations**

- No listing is recommended for oxybutynin extended release (Gelsique) under the Exceptional Access Program.
- Oxybutynin gel is better than placebo but no more effective than other OAB medications; as well, patients unable to swallow.
- Other recommendations for all anticholinergic agents used for management of OAB: improving depotability (Oxytrol®/Troplure®), and its use in elderly patients.

**Conclusion**

- Publicly-funded OAB medication ‘better’ or ‘worse’
- By end of 2014, tolterodine was the most prescribed, followed by solifenacin, oxybutynin, fesoterodine, darifenacin, and trospium.
- No listing is recommended for oxybutynin extended release (Gelsique) under the Exceptional Access Program.
- Oxybutynin gel is better than placebo but no more effective than other OAB medications; as well, patients unable to swallow.
- In the elderly.