

Comprehensive Research Plan:

Cognitive enhancers for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease

Environmental Scan

February 10, 2015

ODPRN Drug Class Review Proposal: Environmental Scan

Study Title: Cognitive enhancers for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease

- Objectives:**
1. To summarize the pharmacy benefit programs for cognitive enhancers (including cholinesterase inhibitors and memantine) in Ontario, across Canada and in select international jurisdictions
 2. To determine the impact of different drug reimbursement schemes for cognitive enhancers (e.g., restricted access) on patient access, quality of life and/or utilization and costs
 3. To summarize the guidelines for management of patients with Alzheimer's disease, in particular the use of cognitive enhancers in this patient population

- Study Questions:** In patients with Alzheimer's disease:
1. How are cognitive enhancers currently being accessed in publicly funded programs across Canada as well as internationally?
 2. What is the impact of different drug reimbursement schemes for cognitive enhancers (e.g., restricted access) on patient access, quality of life and/or utilization and costs?
 3. Does sex, gender or socioeconomic status play an important role in any of the analyses described?

Objective 1: Pharmacy Benefit Programs in Ontario, across Canada and internationally

Study Design: Design: summary of available information available through the Internet; interviews with individuals at the government agencies responsible for the public drug plan
Data sources: Internet, direct contact with individuals

- Study Population:**
- Canada: provincial/territorial public plans
 - England, Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland: NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence)
 - Australia: Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
 - United States: Medicare, Veterans Affairs
 - New Zealand: PHARMAC (Pharmaceutical Management Agency)

- Intervention:**
- Cholinesterase inhibitors (i.e., donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine)
 - N-methyl-D-aspartate (NMDA) receptor antagonist (i.e., memantine)

Outcome(s) of Interest: Drug Reimbursement Criteria and Policies:

- Restricted Access vs. General Benefit
- Specific restriction criteria

Objective 2: Impact of different drug reimbursement schemes for cognitive enhancers

Study Design: Design: Literature review
Data sources: Medline, EMBASE, Cochrane Collection, Grey literature

Study Population: Cognitive enhancers for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease

Intervention: Various drug reimbursement schemes, including general benefits, step therapy, special authorization

Outcome(s) of Interest: Indirect/direct measurements of clinical outcomes, patient satisfaction, quality of life, utilization and/or costs

Objective 3: Guidelines for use of cognitive enhancers in patients with Alzheimer's disease

Study Design: Design: Literature review
Data sources: Medline, EMBASE, Cochrane Collection, Grey literature

Study Population: Cognitive enhancers for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease

Intervention: Guidelines/recommendations for the use of cognitive enhancers in patients with Alzheimer's disease

Outcome(s) of Interest: Published guidelines by various organizations: Canadian Consensus (2012), EFNS-ENS guidelines (2012)
