

The Ontario Drug Policy Research Network (ODPRN) conducted multiple studies on the effectiveness, safety and accessibility of medications used in the treatment of adult ADHD using multiple research methods.



- There has been an increase in the number of prescriptions and costs of ADHD medications for adults across Canada.
- Utilization has gone up 119% and cost 153% during the 5 year study period.



The Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) Program criteria have not been updated with consideration for adults with ADHD despite this increased utilization.



Types of treatment for ADHD

In Canada, there are two types of treatment approved for the treatment of adult ADHD.



- Available as short-acting formulations and long-acting formulations. · Stimulants are also a controlled substance due to their abuse
- All stimulants are listed as a General Benefit under the publicallyfunded drug program in Ontario.



under the Exceptional Access Program; there is some suggestion that this restriction can limit access.

• The only approved non-stimulant is atomoxetine and it is listed

ATOMOXETINE

Utilization

17,482 Adults **Prescribed provincially-funded stimulant**

or atomoxetine medication in Ontario in 2014



accessing mental health services for patients with ADHD, and can include breaks in coverage for medication through the ODB.

Efficacy

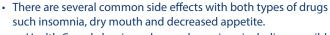
associated with an improvement in symptoms. The non-stimulant drug, atomoxetine, has similar efficacy to the stimulants.

· Overall, stimulant drugs are



Limited Use

Safety 🛕



- Health Canada has issued several warnings including possible increased risk of sudden/cardiac death, and increased risk of
- suicidal thoughts and behaviours. • Long-term stimulant treatment is associated with increases in blood pressure and heart rate. However, there is little data on the
- long-term safety of stimulants in older adults (50+) with medical conditions.



· However the number of potentially inappropriate prescriptions in Canada is low (<0.3% in 2013/14) and more research is needed. • Ontario had the highest rate, followed by Alberta, and British Columbia.

• It is important to note that a review of the literature indicates that misuse/abuse/

diversion occurs, and is especially prevalent in college-age students.

Reimbursement options

Exceptional Access Plan





· Atomoxetine was just as effective as stimulants for treatment of adult ADHD. Accessibility would be increased and the generic pricing

rule (i.e., cost of generic product is 25% of brand-name cost) could be enforced which would decrease the overall cost by approximately \$1 million annually.

Recommendations for consideration





• There is insufficient evidence to suggest that age affects response to ADHD treatment in adult patients.





Monitor the cardiovascular health of

those using the drugs, especially older

adults with medical conditions.



Health care practitioners should

misuse/abuse/diversion of stimulant medications. • Strategies and programs to prevent diversion could potentially

remain vigilant about the potential for

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reduce overall misuse of these medications.