



Towards a Framework for Biosimilar Evidence & Knowledge Exchange IHE Biosimilars Forum 2017

The Institute of Health Economics held a Forum in Ottawa, Ontario today, entitled *Towards a Framework for Biosimilar Evidence & Knowledge Exchange*, as a satellite to the 2017 Annual Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) Symposium.

Attendees represented a diverse range of perspectives and included: public and private payers, clinicians, patient advocacy groups, and biosimilar and originator industry leaders. Speakers included: Laura McIvor, Chief Pharmacist, Healthcare Improvement Scotland; Dr. Thomas Walters, Co-Director, SickKids Paediatric Inflammatory Bowel Diseases Program in Toronto; and Dr. Carter Thorne, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto; as well as a panel including payer, patient, and industry leaders.

“Dialogue and decision-making regarding the introduction of biosimilar products should be informed by dialogue between stakeholders to identify place in therapy and further evidence development that may be required. Ideally this process would be guided and streamlined by an agreed general framework within which to approach the consideration of specific products. This event provided a good foundation to leverage the experience of other jurisdictions and begin to develop such an approach for Canada.” – Dr. Chris Henshall, Chair of the Forum and former Chair, Health Technology Assessment International Policy Forum

Participants at the meeting reviewed the experience of NHS Scotland with the development and utilization of a National Biosimilars Prescribing Framework, and reflected on the learnings and applications for a Canadian framework for biosimilar policy and clinical prescribing guidance.

There was also a review of clinical evidence in key areas of biosimilar introduction in Canada in order to illustrate how it relates to key principles and a Canadian framework, and should impact decision-making. Finally, the group identified an approach to knowledge exchange that will enable a common view and shared agreement amongst stakeholders regarding appropriate use of biosimilars given interpretation of the current state of evidence.

The Forum was videotaped and the recording will be posted on the IHE website, www.ihe.ca, in the coming days. A summary report detailing the conclusions of this Forum will be released in early Summer 2017.

This was a follow-up event to the 2016 IHE Biosimilars Forum held in October last year in Edmonton, Alberta. For more information about the 2016 Forum, please visit the following link: www.ihe.ca/research-programs/knowledge-transfer-dissemination/roundtables/ihebf/about-ihebf

Want to impact the dialogue on biosimilars and other life sciences policy? Check out the IHE Life Sciences Open Innovation Platform™ at www.ihe.ca/research-programs/innovation/oip/isoip and register for free today!

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About the IHE:

The Institute of Health Economics (IHE) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that performs research in health economics and synthesizes evidence in health technology assessment to assist health policy making and best medical practices.