

Thursday, December 7, 2017

News Release

The IHE and CAPT: Addressing gaps and challenges of precision health technology integration in Canada

The Institute of Health Economics (IHE) and the Canadian Association for Population Therapeutics (CAPT) release (1) the IHE/CAPT Precision Health Workshop Summary Report and announce (2) a new Precision Health campaign on the IHE Life Sciences Open Innovation Platform™.

(1) IHE/CAPT Precision Health Workshop Summary Report

Precision medicine is a treatment model that seeks to shape healthcare decisions, practices, procedures, and prescriptions based on the needs of an individual patient – taking into account such details as a person’s genes, environment, and lifestyle. Shifting away from a one-size-fits-all model, this approach seeks to increase the accuracy and effectiveness of treatments.

On October 22, 2017, the Institute of Health Economics and the Canadian Association for Population Therapeutics co-hosted the IHE/CAPT Precision Health Workshop in Toronto, ON, in conjunction with the 2017 Annual CAPT Conference. A total of 40 individuals attended the workshop, including public payers, clinician/providers, academia, regulators, health technology assessment (HTA) agencies, laboratory services, patient advocates, and industry. A key objective of the workshop was to obtain insights from stakeholders on the gaps/challenges, implications, and potential solutions to enable the integration of precision health innovations into the Canadian health system, with a particular focus on decision-making and reimbursement of companion diagnostics (CDx)¹ for oncology therapies.

Today, the IHE and CAPT release the IHE/CAPT Precision Health Workshop Summary Report. Download the report [HERE](#).

A number of challenges to decision-making and funding for CDx to oncology therapies were identified by the participants, including:

1. Lack of defined provincial review processes to evaluate CDx.
2. Lack of alignment in funding review processes between pharmaceuticals and their CDx, due to different budget holders at the provincial level for these benefits/services.

¹ Companion diagnostics: a diagnostic test to determine a particular therapeutic drug’s likely effectiveness when applied to a specific person.

3. Review process challenge with assessment of the value of a CDx, given limited information on their utility and validity.
4. Affordability challenge, as laboratory services budgets may not reflect the expenditure growth required to support new diagnostic testing innovations.
5. CDx implementation challenges, including with test validation, thresholds to be utilized, and results interpretation.

For more information on the IHE/CAPT Precision Health Workshop and Summary Report, please visit: <https://www.ihe.ca/research-programs/knowledge-transfer-dissemination/roundtables/ihecapt/about-phw>.

(2) New Precision Health Campaign on the IHE Life Sciences Open Innovation Platform™

The IHE and CAPT also announce today a new Precision Health Campaign on the IHE Life Sciences Open Innovation Platform™ – a living, online “idea sourcing” tool to solve complex policy challenges. The intent with this Campaign is to identify ideas that help address and build upon some of the challenges identified by the participants in the workshop. Top ideas identified by the community will be published in an IHE Open Innovation Platform™ report and shared with the registered members of this community in order to help provide insight and direction.

For this Campaign, we are looking for ideas that identify:

1. Provincial review processes that support efficient and informed evaluation of CDx.
2. Standard information requirements and interpretation support to guide CDx review and value assessment, as well as protocols to guide implementation.
3. How to best align funding review processes between budget holders for pharmaceuticals and those with responsibility for their CDx.
4. Leadership opportunities for pan-Canadian organizations or entities to provide improved guidance to the provinces to support CDx funding and implementation decision-making.
5. How to best support Laboratory Services managers to better forecast budget implications of anticipated CDx, as well as to secure the required budgets to support new diagnostic testing innovations.

The Precision Health era has arrived, and it will become increasingly meaningful for patients and providers. Impact policy. Join the **IHE Life Sciences Open Innovation Platform™** today

and join the ongoing policy dialogue. Register for the platform here:

<https://iheinnovation.ideascale.com/a/register>.

For more information on the IHE Life Sciences Open Innovation Platform™, please visit:

<https://www.ihe.ca/research-programs/innovation/oip/isoip>.

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