

Mood Disorders Society of Canada
Société pour **les troubles de l'humeur** du Canada

Access to Medications for Mental Illnesses Working Group Overview

ESTABLISHED JUNE 2025

CROSS-HEALTH SYSTEM WORKING GROUP PERSPECTIVES

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Hat	Perspective
	Patient Organization
	Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner
	Psychiatric Physician
	HTA INESSS
	Government Political Staff
	PWLE
	Patient Organizations
	Pharmaceutical Industry
	Ministry of Health

Hat	Perspective
	Private Payer
	Psychiatric Pharmacist/Psychopharmacologist
	Public Payer

Working Group Overarching Goal

Improvement in the front-line voice (People With Lived/Living & Psychiatrist) within the reimbursement review process is at the core of the recommendations.

Our overarching goal is to create meaningful improvements in the Canadian reimbursement process to:



Improve timely access to medications for mental illnesses



Reduce inequity in funding access to medications for mental illnesses

More specifically, Working Group members will aim to:

1. Share and assess insights informing and **co-developing mental illness-specific guidance** on “clinically meaningful endpoints”
2. Contribute content and expertise toward **education for reimbursement review expert committees** and people involved in the reimbursement process to deepen their understanding of the complexities of mental illness

What Do We Mean

What matters to people living with mental illness

PWLE 1

*“My brain functions, I function, because of my medicines for bipolar disease. I can’t live without them, but the weight gain because of them gets me down and effects my mental wellbeing... it is stigmatizing. I wish such **side effects** didn’t exist.”*

PWLE 2

*“The challenge is for some of us who are high functioning or what people would call ‘resilient’, you cannot see what a clinically meaningful day is – you can only feel it. For me living with a mental illness isn’t just about being **able to function** personally and professional, but the effort it takes to do so and the feelings I have, no one is there to see at the end of the day. How difficult was it for me to do everyday things? And, more importantly, did I want to do them? Did I enjoy existing in the world?”*

Caregiver

*“Two to three times a week, our son doesn’t/can’t get out of bed to go to school because of his GAD. Some days **he feels good enough** to make it out the door and face the day. Other days, he just can’t. Then he feels horrible about not being able to, so it’s a double whammy. We all suffer.”*

Unearthing Diverse Perspectives



Clinical Perspective



PWLE Perspective



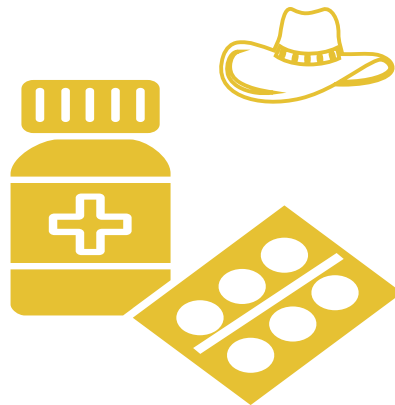
Patient Organization
Perspective



Public Payer
Perspective



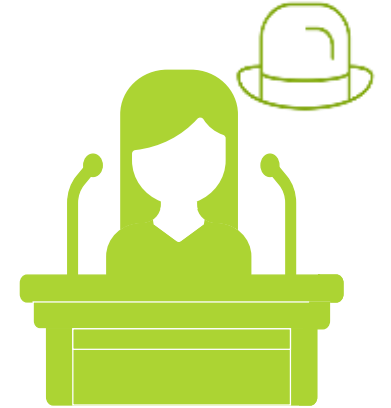
Ministry of Health
Perspective



Industry Perspective



HTA Perspective



Private Payer
Perspective

Working Group 2025 Meeting Dates

June 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Monday, Jun 2nd 2025

September 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Wednesday, Sep 10th 2025

November 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Wednesday, Nov 19th 2025