

**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 Organizations                        |
|    | Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner               |
|    | Psychiatric Physician                        |
|    | HTA INESSS                                   |
|    | Government Political Staff                   |
|    | People With Lived/Living Experience          |
|    | HTA CDA-AMC (Knowledge Resource Contributor) |
|   | 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



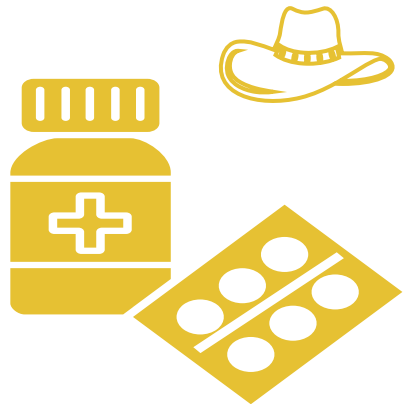
Patient Organization  
Perspective



Public Payer  
Perspective



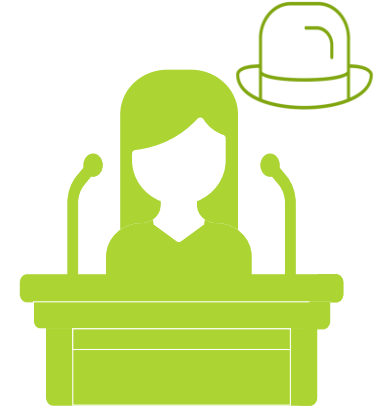
Ministry of Health  
Perspective



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