




**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

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 affects 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



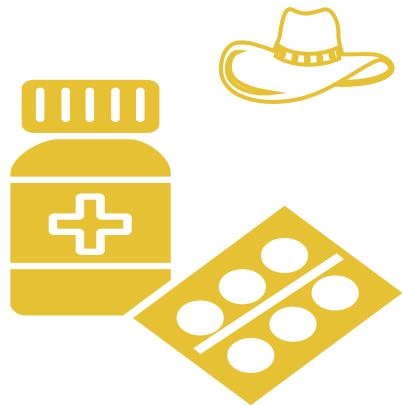
Patient Organization  
Perspective



Public Payer  
Perspective



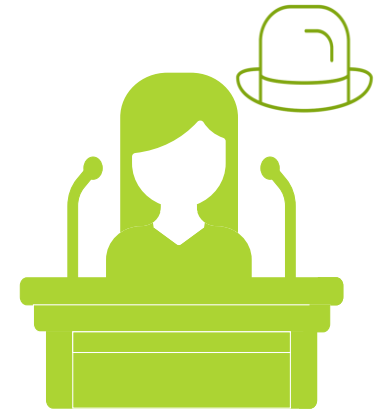
Ministry of Health  
Perspective



Industry Perspective



HTA Perspective



Private Payer  
Perspective

# Working Group 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

February 2026						
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

Thursday, Feb 26th 2026

June 2026						
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				

Tuesday, Jun 2nd 2026

September 2026						
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 9th 2026

November 2026						
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					

Saturday, Nov 7th 2026