

CADTH Contact Information:

CADTH President

Ms. Suzanne McGurn
President and CEO
The Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health
865 Carling Ave., Suite 600
Ottawa, ON Canada K1S 5S8

Minister of Health

The Honourable Patty Hajdu
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
hcminister.ministresc@canada.ca or Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca

Letter opener [If sent by postal mail]:

First and last name

Title

Government Department

Address

Date

Subject line [If sent by email]:

More is needed for metastatic patients like me

Dear Ms. Gurn/Honourable Patty Hajdu,

My name is Kelly Slynch and I am a mother and new grandmother living with metastatic breast cancer. I am writing today to share my concerns regarding the changes to CADTH's Drug Review Processes and the impact they may have on cancer patients.

[Identify issue] I am concerned that the changes to the drug review process could result in less availability and accessibility to cancer medications in Canada. **[Impact of issue]** These changes would limit the opportunities for clinicians to provide input to the process. Clinician input is essential for ensuring that authorities are making truly informed decisions about treatments and their use in Canada.

Most concerningly, the development and application of the provisional algorithm requires greater transparency. The provisional algorithm affects how cancer drugs will be funded and

implemented in clinical practice across provinces. It is essential that the process for developing and implementing the algorithm is disclosed transparently with the input of both clinicians and patient groups.

[Personal story] Now 54 years old, I was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer (Stage IV) in June 2010. As a mother and a new grandmother, I look forward to spending as much time with my loved ones as possible. And this summer, I'll be traveling across the U.S. and Canada with my family, visiting iconic landmarks I've never seen before – like Niagara Falls. For women like me, a new year brings new hope. New treatments are available to help extend the number of sunrises, road trips, laughs and hugs with family members – an important New Year's resolution to keep. The proposed CADTH changes could greatly impact my ability to access medications that prolong my survival.

[Proposed resolution and call-to-action] I urge you to consider the recommendations made by the cancer patient community, including supporting continued opportunities for clinician input and ensuring a transparent process for the development and implementation of provisional algorithms for cancer treatment including opportunities for stakeholders to provide input.

Sincerely,

Kelly Slynch
Vancouver, BC, V5V 5V5

[Insert at least one form of contact if letter is sent via postal mail]