



Consultation: [Canada's Drug Agency Launches Consultation on the Proposed Advice on a National Bulk Purchasing Strategy](#)

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Executive Summary: Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) has opened a public consultation to gather feedback on draft advice on a national bulk purchasing strategy for prescription drugs and related products. The advisory panel's advice on a national bulk purchasing strategy aims to identify ways to obtain best value for people living in Canada by improving our collective capacity to procure pharmaceutical products and consider existing processes to increase overall system efficiencies without significant disruptions to the current system.

Key Themes from CSHP's Feedback

1. **Early and Consistent Engagement of Clinical Experts** *Pharmacy professionals must be involved from the outset of planning, procurement, and implementation. Their expertise ensures therapeutic appropriateness, patient safety, and seamless formulary alignment.*
2. **Governance and Transparency** *A national strategy requires clearly defined roles across federal, provincial/territorial, and institutional levels. Transparent governance, with clinical input at decision-making tables, will foster trust and minimize duplication.*
3. **Public healthcare-systems-Sector Considerations** *Healthcare-systems – particularly, hospital pharmacy practices—already have a robust procurement, formulary management, and drug distribution. Bulk purchasing decisions should account for operational realities such as packaging, administration workflows, and stock distribution.*
4. **Leveraging Hospital and GPO Expertise** *Group Purchasing Organizations (GPOs) and hospital procurement teams bring proven capacity in balancing cost with clinical value. National strategies should build on, not duplicate, these strengths.*
5. **Flexibility in Pooled Procurement** *While pooled purchasing can improve efficiency, hospitals require flexibility to respond to urgent or specialized needs. A tiered model with opt-in provisions and carve-outs will preserve responsiveness in acute care settings.*
6. **Alignment Across Care Continuum** *Harmonizing coverage between public and private payers, and across inpatient and outpatient settings, is essential to ensure continuity of care—particularly for biologics, oncology drugs, and specialty injectables.*
7. **Strengthening Infrastructure and Data** *Investments in standardized data collection, interoperable digital tools, and real-time inventory systems will enhance forecasting, transparency, and responsiveness to shortages.*

Conclusion

CSHP supports the vision of a National Bulk Purchasing Strategy that delivers better value, equity, and predictability for patients. Success will depend on transparent governance, early and sustained engagement of hospital pharmacists, robust infrastructure, and strong collaboration across sectors. We look forward to continuing our involvement in this important work.