



Canada's Drug Agency
L'Agence des médicaments du Canada
Drugs. Health Technologies and Systems. Médicaments, technologies de la santé et systèmes.

Canada's Drug Agency

An Introduction

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Director, Science & Methods, Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) October 29, 2024



Disclosures



Organization

- The organization is funded by contributions from the Canadian federal, provincial, and territorial ministries of health.
- We receive application fees from the pharmaceutical industry for:
 - Our Reimbursement Review processes, including those used for:
 - oncology drugs
 - non-oncology drugs
 - plasma protein and related products reviewed through the interim process
 - Scientific Advice

Personal Disclosure

- I have received travel-related funding from another non-profit organization in 2024

Today's Objectives



- 1 Introducing Canada's Drug Agency**
- 2 Expanded Mandate: Appropriate Use, Data and Analytics, System Coordination and Alignment**
- 3 The Pharmacare Act**
- 4 Initiatives within our existing mandate**



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Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) is a pan-Canadian health organization. Created and funded by Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial governments, CDA-AMC is responsible for driving better coordination, alignment, and public value within Canada's drug and health technology landscape.

Providing Answers through HTA



How effective is a new drug compared to other treatments?

Which patients would benefit most from a particular treatment?

What are the barriers to implementing a health technology?

What is an appropriate cost for a product, given how it compares to available treatment?

Should a new product be reimbursed by public payers?



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The Transition to Become CDA-AMC

The Announcement



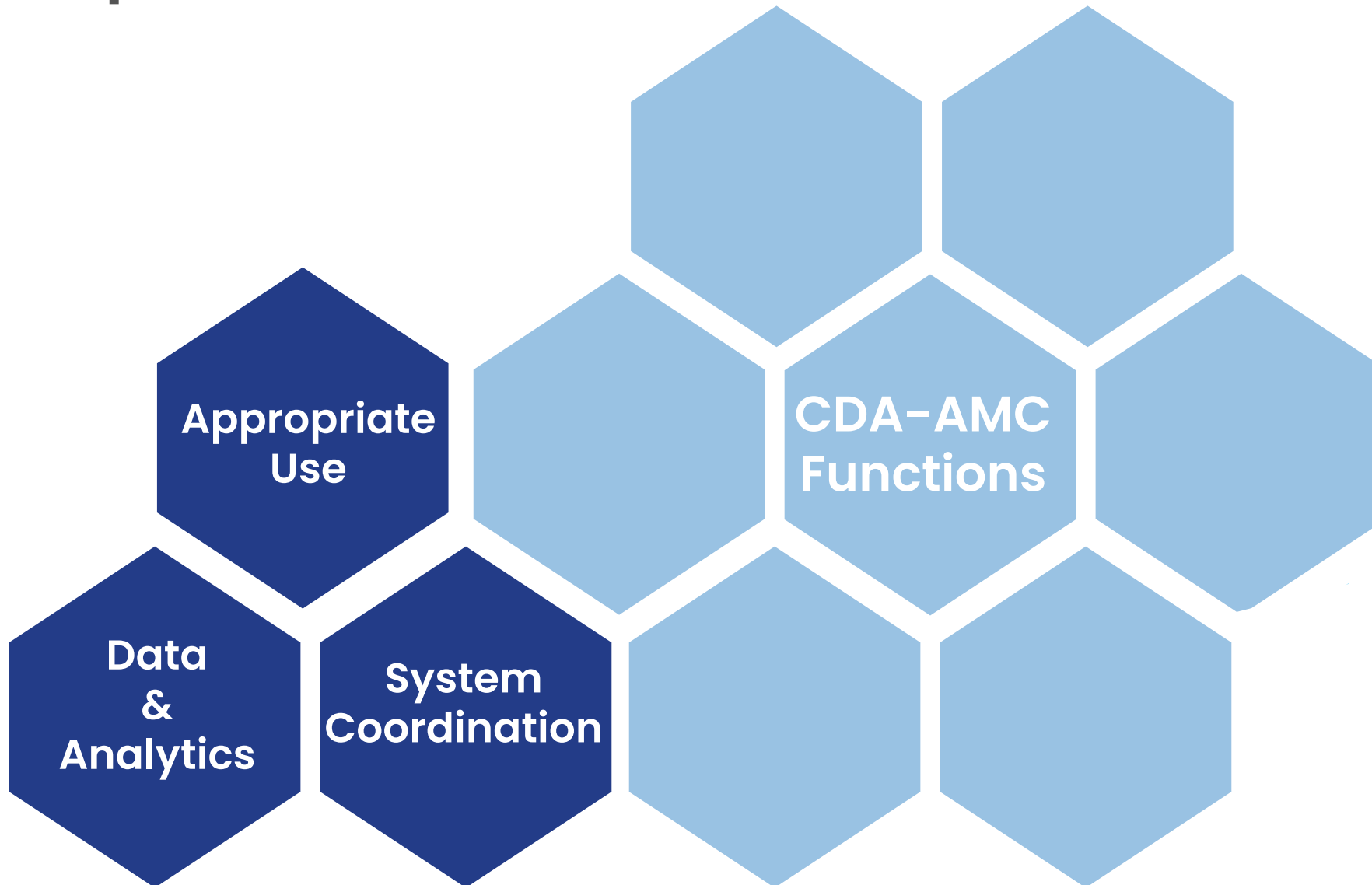
The government's December 2023 announcement acknowledged that the CDA-AMC will **build on — not replace —** existing **mandate and functions**.

The CDA-AMC will advance core functions to support developing a high-performing, integrated pharmaceutical system that delivers results to patients through:

- establishing a pan-Canadian **appropriate use and prescribing program**
- enhancing **data collection and analytics**
- **improving system coordination and alignment**



Expanded Mandate and Functions





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Appropriate Use (AU)

“

Improving the **appropriate prescribing and use of medications**, for better patient health and to support system sustainability

”

Government of Canada, 2023

Appropriate Use Key Terms



Appropriate Use

People taking medications best suited for their needs that provides the greatest benefit and avoids harm. It adds value to patients, their community, the health system and the broader environment.



Overuse	Underuse	Inappropriate Use
When patients use medications that they do not need or offer little value or are likely to cause more harm than benefit	When patients are not taking a medication that they probably should take to treat or prevent a condition.	Broad term that can include overuse and underuse , but also other forms of use that do not adequately address the care and priorities of the patient.
E.g., antipsychotics in long-term care homes	E.g., Underuse of statins for cardiovascular disease	E.g., Prolonged use of antibiotics

Prescription Drug Use in Canada



55%

% of adults in Canada who take at **least 1 prescription medication**¹

23%

% of children & youth in Canada who take at **least 1 prescription medication**²

1.9 M

of seniors in Canada that regularly use at least 1 **inappropriate medication**³

21%

% of adults, aged 40-79, taking **5 or more** prescription medications⁴ (polypharmacy)

1. Statistics Canada (2021). [Prescription medication use among Canadian adults](#). 2. Statistics Canada (2021). [Prescription medications use among Canadian children](#). 3. CIHI. (2016). [Drug Use Among Seniors in Canada](#). 4. Statistics Canada (2022). [Prevalence of prescription and non-prescription polypharmacy](#).

Appropriate Use Program Examples



Canadian Medication
Appropriateness and
Deprescribing Network

Choosing Wisely
Canada

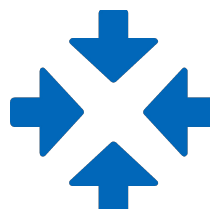


Many AU programs and initiatives are doing great work across the country, but there is **limited coordination or collaboration** across these groups

Our Approach for AU



We will collaborate with health system partners to build a **coordinated approach** to appropriate use that **improves patient safety, health outcomes and sustainability** by:



Championing the development of a **common, pan-Canadian approach** to the design and implementation of policies, programs, and initiatives to support **patients/caregivers** and equip **prescribers** with information and tools to improve appropriate use



Coordinating **existing programs and initiatives** to limit duplication of efforts and maximize resources

Bolstering **regional and local capacity** to develop initiatives and implement promising practices



Increasing **prescribing and utilization data** to facilitate the analysis of trends and building a common understanding of appropriate use



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Data and Analytics (D&A)

Policy-ready drug data and analytics ecosystem that empowers **decision makers** with access to **authoritative, comprehensive and timely** data and insight to enhance patient and health system outcomes

D&A Landscape



Challenges

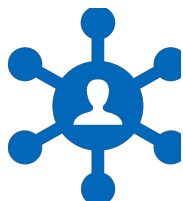
Institutional Silos
Systemic fragmentation
Data Complexity & Variety
Regulatory, Legal & Ethical
Barriers
Misaligned Governance
Inconsistent Standards
Limited Resources



Opportunities

Convene Partners
Focus on Shared Goals
Enhance and Innovate
Reduce Duplication
Increase Efficiencies
System Learning

We will broker the interface between
Evidence Supply & Evidence Demand



Convene and Coordinate

- to optimize the complex pharmaceutical data ecosystem and align shared initiatives and broader health data priorities



Increase pan-Canadian data collection and access

- by advancing existing, high-impact projects and by initiating promising pilots that improve the data foundation, data access, and system-level analytics



Enable robust system data analytics

- to support improved health outcomes, with capacity development for appropriate prescribing and use, decisions to list/delist, among others.



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System Coordination and Alignment

Enhancing drug system **efficiency** and **coordination** by creating a better-connected pharmaceutical system in support of improved care for all

A Complex System



A Complex & Evolving System

The pharmaceutical landscape in Canada is shaped by a number of different partners and is in a state of constant **evolution**. This complex system contributes to a **difficult to navigate, layered system with unintended gaps**.

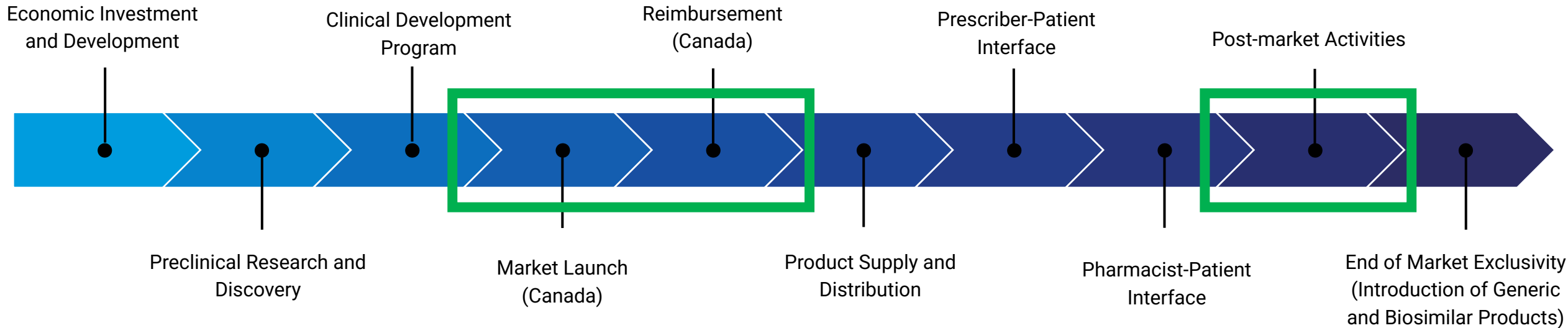
Coordination & Alignment

There has been no organization or structure to **convene partners around shared priorities** or **bring alignment to the space**, despite rapid technological demand / change and escalating public spending that bring new system considerations.

There is a need to transform the pharmaceutical landscape through coordination and enhanced collaboration to support current and emerging health priorities

Pharmaceutical System

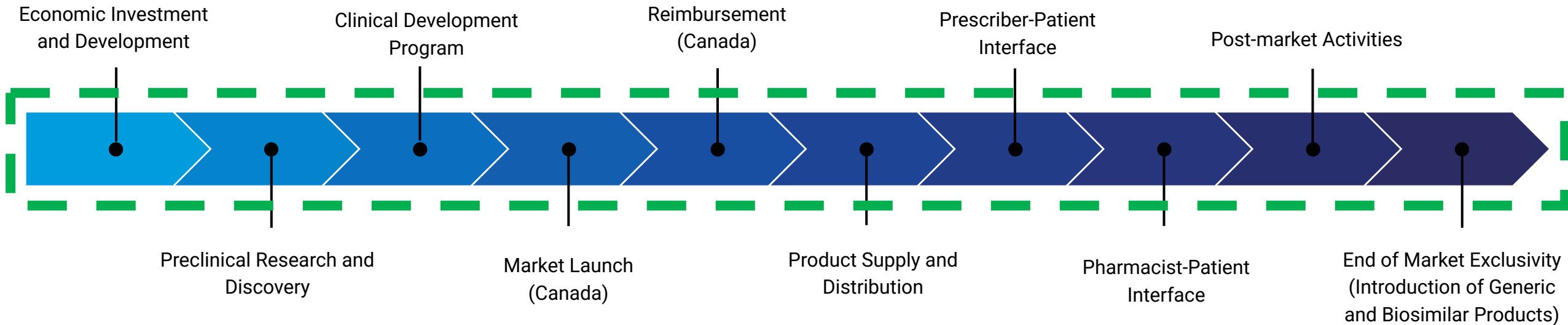
Journey of a novel prescription drug molecule



Related non-drug products, such as devices and tests could also be implicated in different parts across the pharmaceutical system

Pharmaceutical System

Journey of a novel prescription drug molecule



Related non-drug products, such as devices and tests could also be implicated in different parts across the pharmaceutical system

Our Approach



Understand & Explore Synergies



Integrate



Impact

Enhancing drug system **efficiency** and **coordination** by creating a better-connected pharmaceutical system in support of improved care for all



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The Transition to Become CDA-AMC

An Act Respecting Pharmacare
(The Pharmacare Act)

The Pharmacare Act

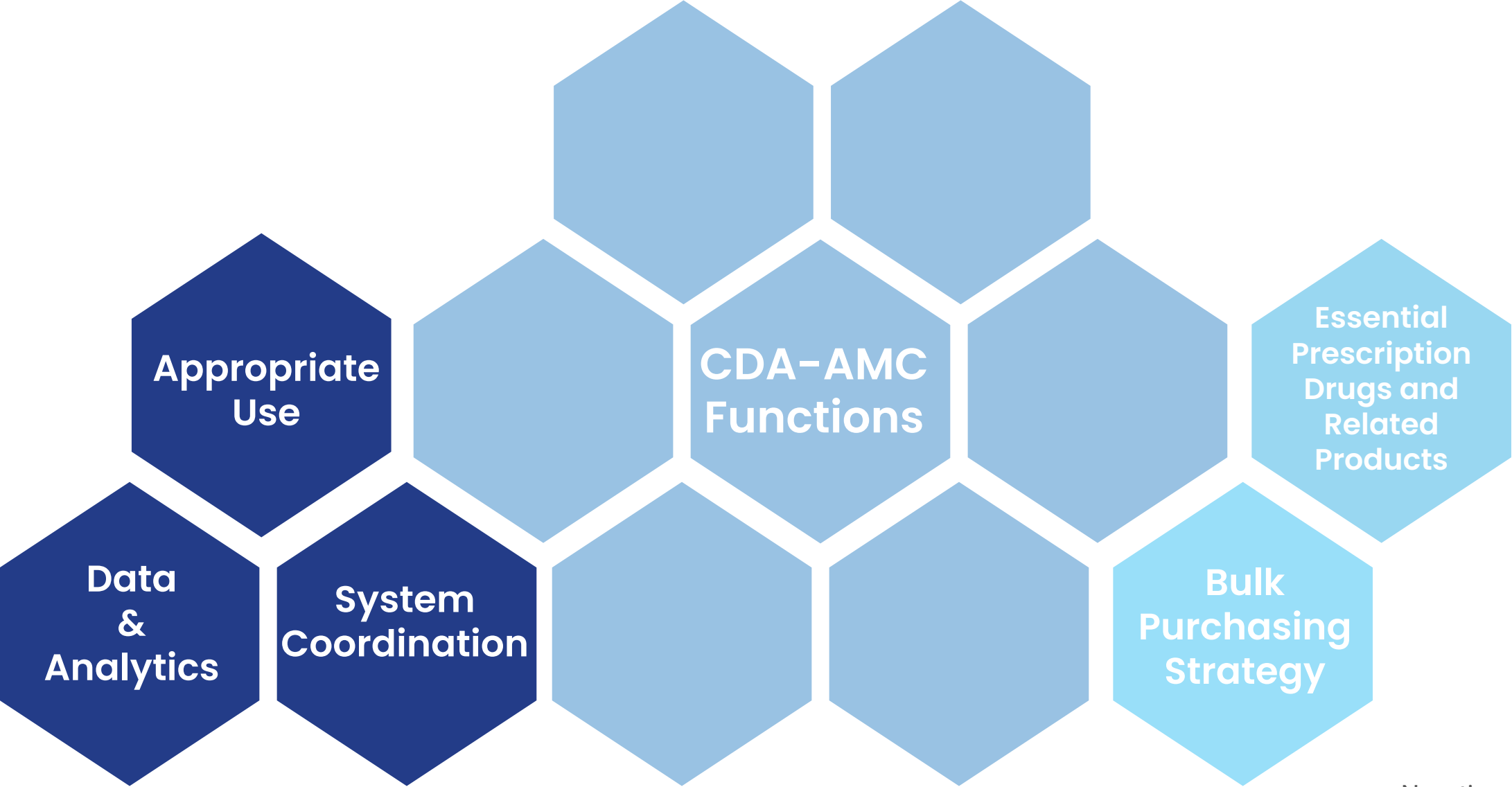


On October 10, 2024, *An Act respecting pharmacare*, received royal assent. It proposes the **foundational principles for the first phase of national universal pharmacare** in Canada.

The Pharmacare Act does not materially change CDA-AMC's mandate; however, it does contain details about time-limited support.



Expanded Mandate and Functions



How Does the Pharmacare Act Impact Us?



CDA-AMC will provide time-limited support in 3 key areas



Preparing a report on the progress made in advancing a pan-Canadian **strategy** on the **appropriate use** of prescription drugs and related products.

(Health Canada to publish pan-Canadian Strategy on appropriate use within a year of royal assent)



Developing (but not implementing) a **national bulk purchasing strategy**



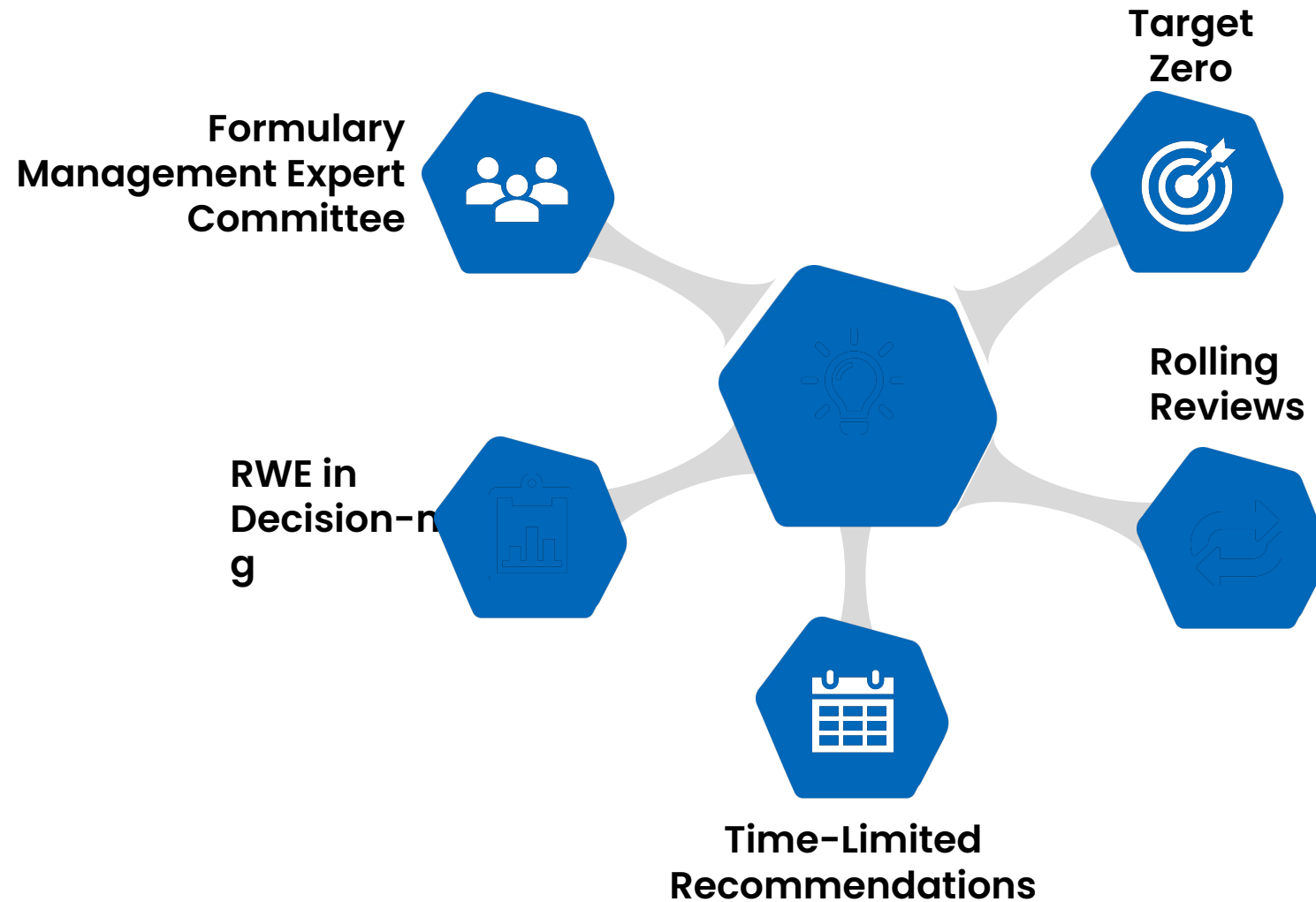
Preparing a **list of essential prescription drugs and related products** to inform the development of a national formulary



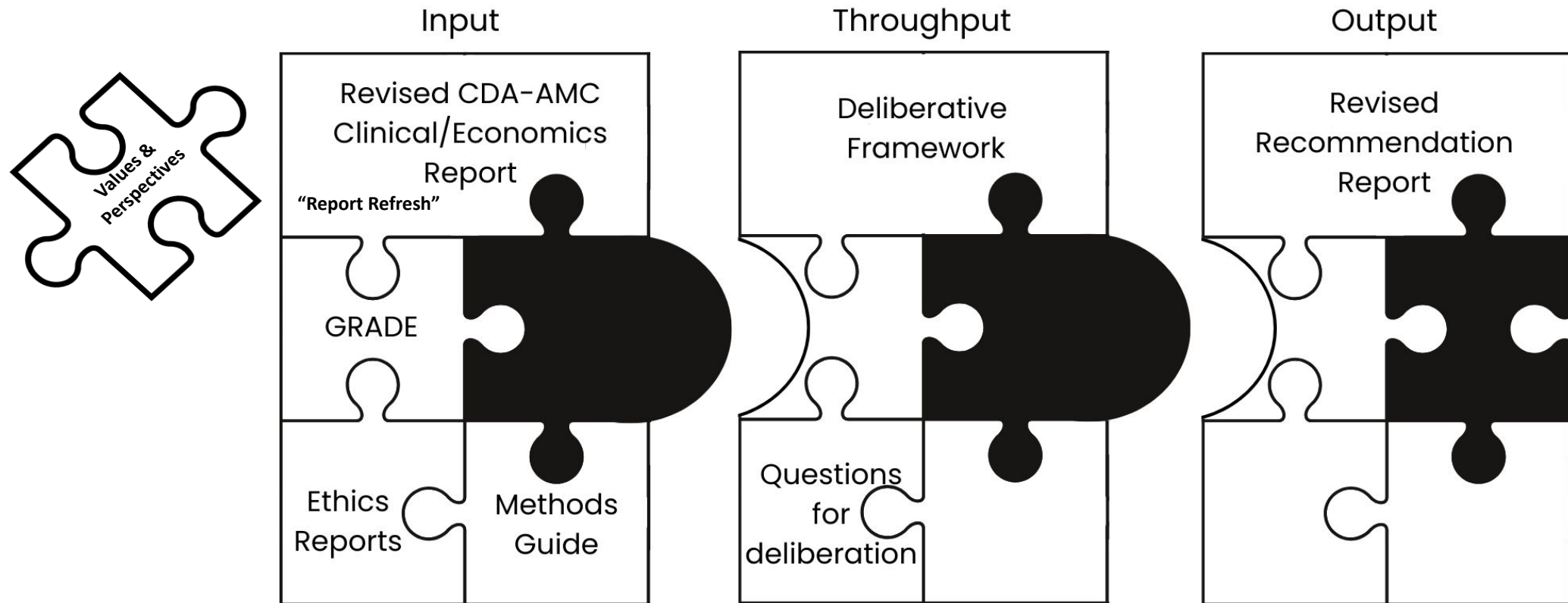
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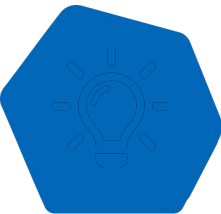
Other Initiatives at CDA-AMC

Innovative Pathways to Reimbursement

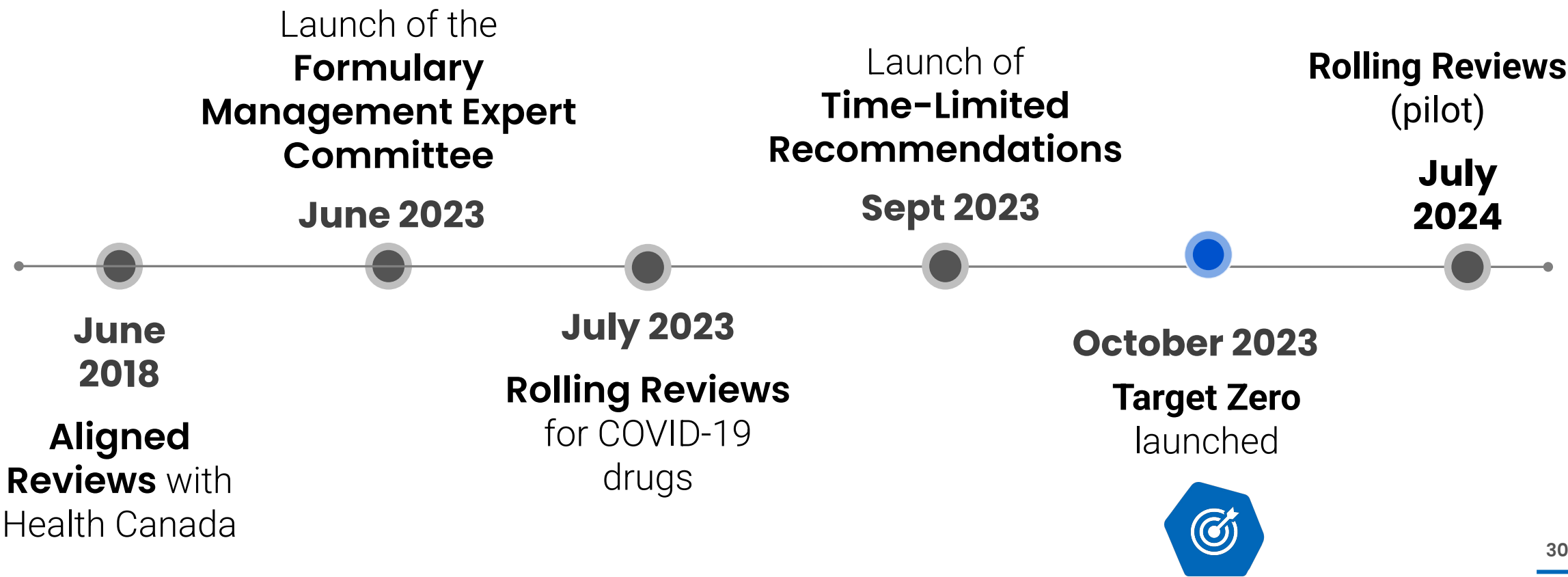


Quality, Efficiency & Transparency Initiatives; Collaboration





Timelines





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Thank you



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