

Patented Medicine Prices Review Board
Box L40
Standard Life Centre
333 Laurier Avenue West
Suite 1400
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 1C1

December 18, 2023

Dear Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB):

Thank you for your interest in hearing various stakeholder views to help inform the development of the final PMPRB guidelines. On behalf of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of New Brunswick, I am writing today to provide feedback on your scoping paper for consultation on the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) guidelines.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of New Brunswick (HSFNB) is a health charity committed to healthy lives free of heart disease and stroke. We are the only provincial foundation that operates independently from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. Our organization is governed by a board of directors with a mission to promote health, save lives and enhance recovery. As part of this mission, our Foundation has frequently advocated our provincial government to ensure people with cardiovascular disease get timely access to the best medicines available to ensure their outcomes are optimal and are equitable compared to the rest of Canada. We have also seen firsthand the detrimental impacts on quality of life, morbidity and mortality when access to life saving medications is inaccessible or unavailable to people living with cardiovascular disease.

While your call for feedback outlines six themes and related questions, we are specifically providing input on question 6.3.i. "Should the PMPRB view the question of whether the prices of these medicines are "excessive" through a different lens than other types of medicines?" As a health charity, we want to encourage the PMPRB to ensure a "patient first" lens when deciding if medication prices are "excessive." Please safeguard the ability for patients to access potentially life-saving new medicines. We urge you to look at the costs of new medicines as a whole, and not in silos, because the costs of people returning home to live longer, healthier, and more productive lives must be considered.

New medicines, and patients getting timely access to them, saves lives, reduces costs and contributes to our communities, country and economy. Additionally, we want to highlight that roadblocks and/or uncertainty in the guidelines have the potential to result in delayed drug launches, fewer clinical trials and decreased investments in the life sciences sector. As a patient

advocate in New Brunswick, this is concerning as this situation could lead to harmful consequences for New Brunswick cardiovascular patients that do not have the luxury of time.

We again thank you for your interest in hearing from stakeholders as you embark on the development of new PMPRB guidelines.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kurtis Sisk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kurtis" and last name "Sisk" clearly legible.

Kurtis Sisk
Chief Executive Officer