



March 18, 2025

BMC position points: Protecting patients in Canada from tariff and other trade measures

- The global supply chain for pharmaceuticals and related treatments, as with other health products and devices, is exceedingly complex with a high degree of international trade integration. All patients in Canada, especially those who rely on medicines to sustain life, are vulnerable to supply interruptions and price increases, as are public and private payers, with critical consequences. This perilous situation is intensified in the context of the evolving tariff and trade environment.
- Canada's trade and tariff plans must be sensitive to the critical nature of patient needs and ensure that patients are protected in any measures. Drugs and related treatments, their ingredients, along with other health products and devices, must be completely exempt from tariffs, countermeasures and any other retaliatory actions threatened or imposed by Canada. Likewise, in its dealings with the United States, we call on the Canadian government to advocate for complete exemption of drugs and related treatments, and any critical medical products, from tariffs.
- Regarding Finance Canada's Notice of Intent on proposed countermeasures, we are particularly concerned about the prospective impact of Code 3004.90.00 and call for its complete exemption along with any of the codes beginning with 3004, encompassing drugs, related treatments, associated ingredients, and any codes encompassing other health products and devices.
- We urge all to continue to comply with the World Trade Organization's 1994 Agreement on Trade in Pharmaceutical Products, signed by both Canada and the United States, in which countries agreed to not apply tariffs to key pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients.
- As this situation evolves, any effect on prices must be carefully assessed, managed and addressed. This includes providing financial relief to patients impacted by price increases and working with provinces, territories and private payers so that access is not further restricted in response to pricing or other trade pressures. In addition, measures must be taken to ensure that the Canadian manufacturing sector has the support, tools and flexibility to be viable and is able to continue to provide the medicines that patients in Canada rely on.
- Longer term, rigorous impact assessments are needed to build proactive policy approaches to manage costs and maintain supply, such as by supporting domestic manufacturers to provide stable and reliable sources of medicines and vaccines and eliminating interprovincial barriers which may impede access.



About the Best Medicines Coalition

The Best Medicines Coalition is a national alliance of 32 patient organizations. The BMC seeks timely access to a comprehensive range of medically necessary, safe, and effective drugs and related treatments, informed by patient-driven evidence and values, and delivered equitably and affordably to all patients in Canada. The BMC’s areas of interest include drug approval, assessment, and reimbursement, as well as patient safety and supply issues. As an important aspect of its work, the BMC strives to ensure that Canadian patients have a voice and are meaningful participants in health policy development, specifically regarding pharmaceutical care. The BMC’s core activities include issue education, consensus-based position development, and advocacy, making certain that patient-driven positions are communicated to decision makers and other stakeholders. The BMC was formed in 2002 as a grassroots alliance of patient advocates. In 2012, the BMC was registered under the federal Not-for-profit Corporations Act and operates under the direction of a Board of Directors comprised of representatives of member organizations and elected annually.



- Alliance for Access to Psychiatric Medications
- Asthma Canada
- Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada
- Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance
- Canadian Breast Cancer Network
- Canadian Cancer Survivor Network
- Canadian Council of the Blind
- Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Treatment Society
- Canadian Epilepsy Alliance
- Canadian Hemophilia Society
- Canadian PKU & Allied Disorders
- Canadian Skin Patient Alliance
- Canadian Spondyloarthritis Association
- CanCertainty
- Crohn’s and Colitis Canada
- Cystic Fibrosis Canada

- Eczema Society of Canada
- Fighting Blindness Canada
- Health Coalition of Alberta
- Huntington Society of Canada
- Kidney Cancer Canada
- Lung Health Foundation
- Lymphoma Canada
- Medical Cannabis Canada
- Medicines Access Coalition – BC
- Migraine Canada
- Millions Missing Canada
- Ovarian Cancer Canada
- Parkinson Canada
- Platelet Disorder Support Association
- Psoriasis Canada
- the cancer collaborative