



Access to Innovative Therapeutics in Canada

April 2025

Julie Schneiderman

The access narrative

Toronto Star

At \$2.8 million it's the world's most expensive drug. For these children, it may be the price for a normal life

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Benefits Canada.com

Capping drug coverage for rare diseases poses an ethical dilemma

While high-cost specialty medications represent about 30 per cent of the total budget impact of rare disease drugs is less than...

Jan 17, 2020



The Globe and Mail

Doubts rise over Ottawa's ability to implement universal drug coverage if pharmacare bill passes

Many experts point to a h
to Canada as the pivotal
Oct 20, 2023



She faced major hurdles in her rare disease fight. These barriers can cost lives, experts say



By Sawyer Bogdan • Global News

Posted February 15, 2025 6:00 am • Updated February 18, 2025 10:53 am • 5 min read



CBC

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Ottawa

Patient with rare disease pleads for life-saving drug funding

'You wait five years for the diagnosis, then they tell you, 'We're not going to fund you.'

Amanda Pfeffer - CBC News - Posted: Jun 17, 2019 4:00 AM EDT | Last Updated: June 17, 2019



Ronald Laberge, left, and his wife Adele Laberge hope the province will eventually fund the pricey treatment for

CBC

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Health • SECOND OPINION

Are low-priced drugs becoming an endangered species?

The price of Canada's top-selling patented drugs has increased by 800 per cent over 10 years



Kelly Crowe - CBC News - Posted: Feb 26, 2019 4:00 AM EST | Last Updated: February 26, 2019



British Columbia

'Lives are on the line!' Cystic fibrosis patients file class action lawsuit for \$250K-a-year drug

Class action lawsuit says B.C. decision not to cover drug for rare disease violates Canadian Charter of Rights

Lisa Johnson - CBC News - Posted: Jul 24, 2018 10:50 PM EDT | Last Updated: July 24, 2018



Most expensive medication in the world now offered in Quebec

MONTREAL - The most expensive medication in the world, Zolgensma, will be available in Quebec as of Oct. 20, La Presse has learned. About 10 families across the province were pushing for the gene therapy medication, which costs \$2.8 million a dose, to be offered to their children with spinal muscular atrophy, like in Ontario and Alberta.

Oct. 15, 2021 | 3 min read



CTV NEWS



Kitchener | News

Kitchener, Ont. woman with incurable cancer dies, fight continues to get provincial funding for expensive drug treatment

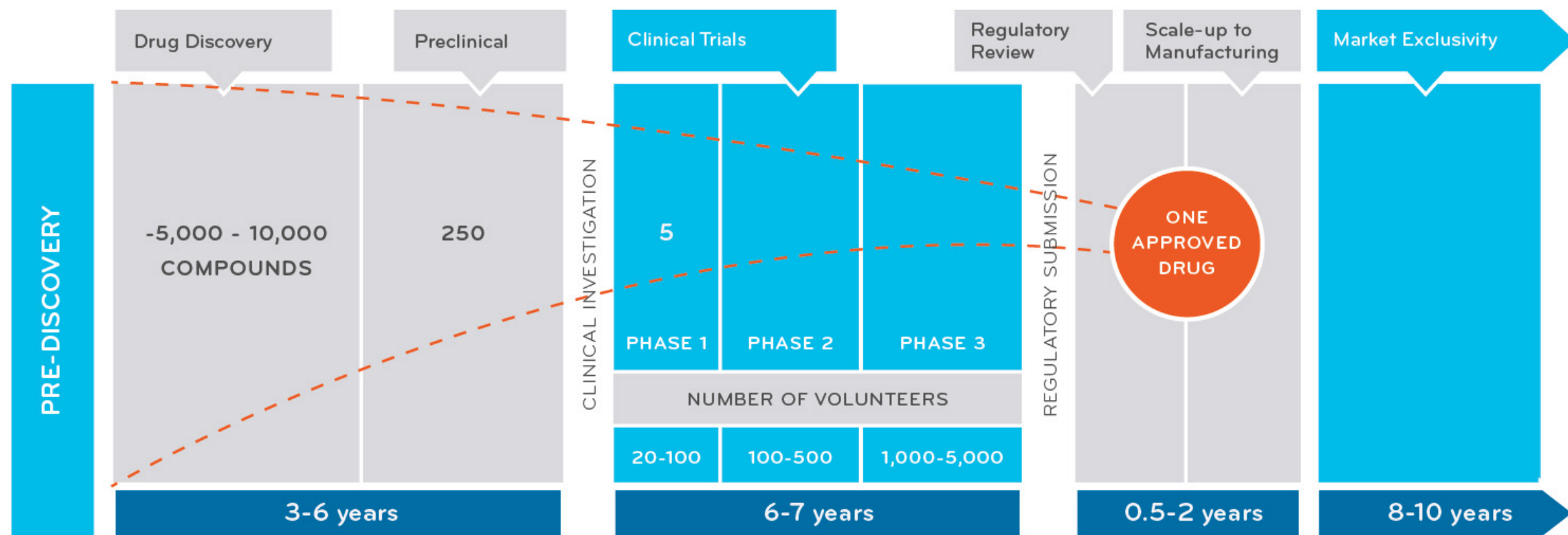
By Spencer Turcotte

Published: November 13, 2024 at 5:52PM EST



Drug discovery timeline

HIGH-RISK RESEARCH: MORE THAN \$1 BILLION OVER 10-15 YEARS
MARKET EXCLUSIVITY FOLLOWING APPROVAL: 8-10 YEARS



Source: IMC

Investing in R&D



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Biotech's 'Nauseating Roller Coaster' Repels Investors

April 23, 2025 | 5 min read | Ana Mulero

iStock, aapsky

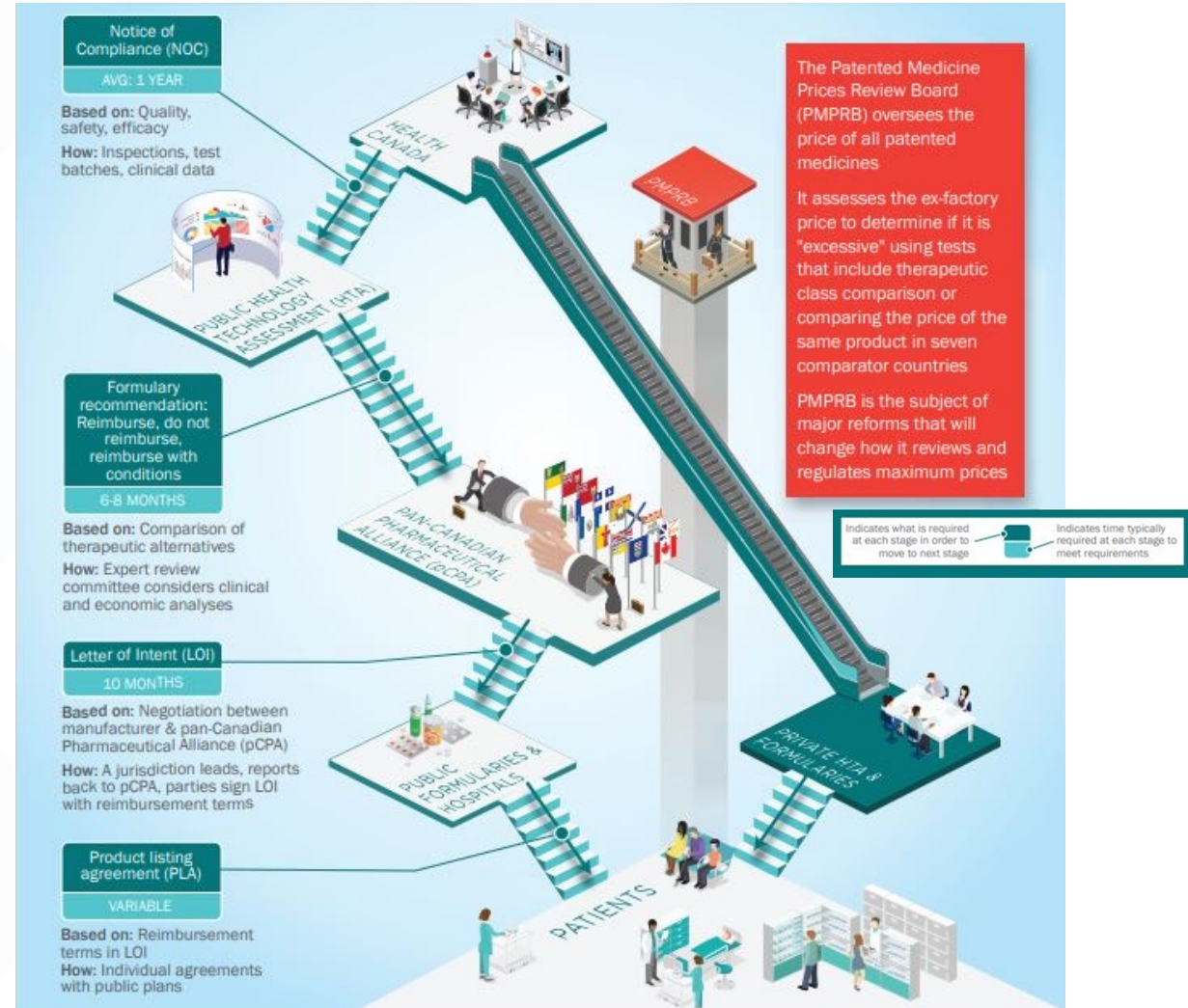
Developability assessment as an early de-risking tool for biopharmaceutical development
 April 2013Pharmaceutical Bioprocessing 1(1):29-50
 April 20131(1):29-50
 DOI:10.4155/pbp.13.3

When *approval* is only the beginning

- Process has many steps in Canada and involves many agencies and levels of government
- Public reimbursement takes > 2 years
- Less than 1 year for private plans
- Pre-approval mechanisms are lacking



Doug Clark is calling for reform to Canada's byzantine drug regulation system. Mr. Clark, former executive director of the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board



Source: 3Sixty Public Affairs
How New Medicines are Reviewed and Funded in Canada

Supporting rare disease innovation is intensive

Data



Education



Systems



Partnership



From bench to bedside and beyond...

Fair is not always equal, equal is not always fair

