

# Canada's Evolving Health Landscape: From Drug Shortages to Mental Health

Canadian Health News · Answer Key · 19 Questions

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**1. Health Canada has proposed new regulations to address drug and medical device shortages. Which of the following is NOT a proposed measure?**

- A) Requiring manufacturers to maintain safety stock for specified drugs.
- B) Mandating reporting of significant demand surges for specified drugs.
- C) Allowing the extension of expiration dates for certain drugs.
- D) Implementing a national ban on the export of all pharmaceutical products.**

**2. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) outlined key priorities for 2024-25. Which of the following was a stated priority?**

- A) Expanding international travel insurance coverage.
- B) Supporting Autistic Canadians, their families and caregivers.**
- C) Developing a new national airline safety standard.
- D) Reducing the cost of private healthcare services.

**3. In response to healthcare workforce challenges, what is the Canadian government investing in, starting in 2025-26, to better integrate internationally educated health professionals?**

- A) A Foreign Credential Recognition Action Fund.**
- B) Increased funding for private staffing agencies.
- C) A national healthcare worker training program exclusively for Canadian-born citizens.
- D) Subsidies for healthcare workers to relocate abroad.

**4. What is the primary goal of the new interpretation of the Canada Health Act (CHA) announced in January 2025 by the Minister of Health?**

- A) To reduce the number of publicly funded hospitals.
- B) To expand provincial and territorial health coverage to include medically necessary services provided by additional health care providers like nurse practitioners and pharmacists when those services are equivalent to physician services.**
- C) To mandate that all healthcare services be provided exclusively by physicians.
- D) To encourage more private sector investment in Canadian hospitals.

**5. A significant multijurisdictional measles outbreak began in Canada in October 2024. What is notable about the cases reported in 2025 related to this outbreak?**

- A) Canada regained its measles elimination status in 2025.
- B) The number of measles cases in 2025 was significantly lower than the average reported between 1998-2024.
- C) Canada lost its measles elimination status in 2025 due to sustained transmission within the country.**
- D) The outbreak was declared over in all Canadian provinces by the end of 2025.

**6. Which of the following is a key priority for Health Canada in 2024-25 regarding pharmaceutical access?**

- A) Increasing the cost of prescription drugs to fund research.
- B) Working with partners to enhance the accessibility, affordability, appropriate use, and universal coverage of medications.**
- C) Phasing out the Canadian Dental Care Plan.
- D) Promoting the use of unapproved drugs for experimental treatments.

**7. According to preliminary data, what was the approximate number of Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD) cases reported in Canada in 2025, marking the country's highest tally since 2012?**

- A) Approximately 75 cases
- B) Approximately 100 cases
- C) Approximately 160 cases**
- D) Approximately 50 cases

**8. The 2024-25 Departmental Plan for the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) highlights the agency's commitment to public health threats. Which of the following is a specific initiative mentioned for supporting mental health in 2024-25?**

- A) Funding 15 projects through the Mental Health Promotion Innovation Fund to expand mental health promotion interventions.**
- B) Initiating a national competition for the best mental health awareness slogan.
- C) Providing direct, one-on-one therapy sessions to all Canadians.
- D) Implementing mandatory mental health screenings for all newborns.

**9. What is a key aspect of the proposed new regulations by Health Canada concerning drug manufacturers and shortage prevention?**

- A) Manufacturers will be required to develop and maintain Shortage Prevention and Mitigation Plans (SPMPs) for drugs where a shortage could present a serious risk of injury to human health.**
- B) Manufacturers will be allowed to cease production of any drug with minimal notice.
- C) The regulations will not require manufacturers to hold any stock of drugs within Canada.
- D) Manufacturers will only be required to report shortages that have already occurred.

**10. In 2024-25, the federal government invested in the health workforce through Budget 2024. What was a significant portion of this investment aimed at?**

- A) Relocating healthcare professionals from rural to urban areas.
- B) Providing financial incentives for healthcare workers to retire early.
- C) Better integrating internationally educated health professionals into the health workforce, including creating training positions and increasing assessment capacity.**
- D) Reducing the number of training positions for nurses and allied health professionals.

**11. The 2024-25 Departmental Results Report for Health Canada highlighted progress in implementing the Canadian Dental Care Plan. By March 2025, approximately how many eligible Canadians were approved for coverage under this plan?**

- A) Over 1 million
- B) Nearly 1.7 million
- C) Over 3.4 million**
- D) Over 5 million

**12. What is a projected trend for pharmaceutical spending in Canada for 2024 and 2025, according to recent analyses?**

- A) A decrease in overall drug expenditure due to increased generic drug availability.
- B) A significant increase in both retail and hospital drug purchases, with higher growth rates projected for hospital-administered drugs.**
- C) A plateau in pharmaceutical spending due to government cost-control measures.
- D) A shift towards more spending on over-the-counter medications.

**13. As of 2025, what is the status of electronic health record (EHR) adoption among Canadian physician offices?**

- A) Less than 50% of offices have adopted EHRs, with significant fragmentation.
- B) EHR adoption has surpassed 95%, but Canada grapples with fragmentation due to numerous distinct EHR platforms.**
- C) EHR adoption is limited to large urban hospitals, with minimal use in physician offices.
- D) EHR systems are fully interoperable nationwide with no significant fragmentation.

**14. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is developing Canada's new Pandemic Preparedness Plan. What is the expected completion year for this plan?**

- A) 2024
- B) 2025
- C) 2026**
- D) 2027

**15. What is a key focus of the newly created Youth Mental Health Fund, announced in Budget 2024?**

- A) Providing scholarships for youth to study abroad.
- B) Addressing the mental health care needs of diverse youth populations, including those facing systemic discrimination and racism.**
- C) Funding recreational sports programs for teenagers.
- D) Establishing new national parks for youth outdoor activities.

**16. Health Canada has proposed new regulations to mitigate drug and device shortages. Which of the following is a specific requirement for medical device manufacturers and importers under these proposals?**

- A) They would be required to report actual and potential shortages on a third-party website at least six months ahead of the anticipated shortage date.**
- B) They would be exempt from all reporting requirements related to shortages.
- C) They would only need to report shortages if they directly impact patient care.
- D) They would be required to maintain a six-month safety stock of all medical devices manufactured in Canada.

**17. What is the primary purpose of the Foreign Credential Recognition Action Fund, for which the Canadian government invested \$97 million over 5 years in Budget 2025?**

- A) To streamline and expedite the recognition of foreign credentials for skilled trades workers.
- B) To support Canadian businesses in expanding their operations internationally.
- C) To make the credential recognition process fairer, faster, and more transparent for fields facing labor shortages, including healthcare.**
- D) To provide financial aid for Canadians seeking to study abroad.

**18. In 2024-25, PHAC continued its efforts to address chronic diseases. Which specific framework does PHAC engage stakeholders with to facilitate action on diabetes prevention?**

- A) The National Diabetes Prevention Strategy.
- B) The Framework for Diabetes in Canada.**
- C) The Canadian Guideline for Diabetes Management.
- D) The Global Initiative for Diabetes Control.

**19. What major challenge does Canada's healthcare system face regarding its workforce, according to recent reports?**

- A) An oversupply of highly specialized medical professionals.
- B) Significant reliance on temporary agency staffing due to high turnover and difficulty retaining staff.**
- C) A lack of administrative staff, leading to efficient operations.
- D) An aging workforce with no retirement concerns.