

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

Canadian Health News · Practice Test · 19 Questions

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.