

Empowering patients and patient advocates to be fully engaged in healthcare decision-making

Why CONECTed? ■

The cancer treatment paradigm is changing with **innovative breakthrough therapies** becoming available but at **increasing cost** and with **more barriers** to access.

We are seeing the arrival of **immunotherapies**, virus and carT therapy with **high effectivity** in treating cancer patients. Given these breakthrough therapies, **flexibility** of regulatory processes and health technology assessments is required.

Affordability and sustainability continue to be major concerns where the dialogue needs to move away from **cost to value-based outcomes**.

CONECTed is a Canadian network of oncology patient organizations formed to promote a greater understanding and the value of innovative medicines, companion diagnostics and supportive care. Our goal is to identify solutions to expand access to cancer treatments for patients through collaboration, innovation and education.

CONECTed Members ■

Canadian Cancer Survivor Network | CML Society of Canada
Colorectal Cancer Canada | Lymphoma Canada |
Lung Cancer Canada | Myeloma Canada |
Save Your Skin Foundation | Team Finn Foundation

Cancer Treatment Innovation ■

This is a new era of medical innovation, powered in part by the advancements being made in innovative treatments, allowing patients with metastatic and advanced disease a real chance of survival.

Immunotherapy is one of these innovative treatments. Rather than killing cancer cells directly with tools like radiation or chemotherapy, immunotherapies seek to harness the body's immune system's power to eliminate the cancer or slow its growth and ability to spread. Research is showing improved outcomes and survival rates for some patients, including patients with kidney, lung cancer and advance melanoma.

We are only at the cusp of the possibilities of not only immunotherapy, but of other innovative medicines in the treatment of cancer for curative intent, offering renewed hope and potential of a longer life.



CONECTed

CONNECTed Issues ■

Timely and Affordable Access

CONNECTed wants to work with government to ensure that patients obtain timely and affordable access to effective new innovative cancer treatments. Without these treatments, patients will die.

Value-based Outcomes

CONNECTed views that value-based outcomes are critical and must replace current cost evaluations by Canadian health technology bodies and drug plans. Processes that evaluate cancer treatment need to evolve and adapt to the new science.

Informed Canadians

CONNECTed wants to ensure that all Canadians are well informed about the health outcomes that new cancer drugs bring to patients and their families.

Public Policy ■

How it can make a significant difference for Canadians living with cancer

1. The new treatments that are becoming available are showing very promising outcomes and this with early clinical data. Patients need Health Canada, the pan-Canadian and provincial evaluators of Health Technologies and drug programs to evaluate these drugs rapidly and make them available for patients.
2. Clarify and bolster the capacity of governments involved in the access process – starting with Health Canada – to avoid duplication and unnecessary resources to review potentially life-saving therapies and by reviewing earlier data in an accelerated fashion.
3. The federal pricing regulator, the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB), should equally consider patient-values when determining if a drug price is excessive.
4. Canadian public drug plans should negotiate agreements based on innovative contract approaches, such as paying for performance and risk-sharing agreements, rather than solely on a negotiated price.