Canada Proposes Single-Payer DRUG Plan

Canada may soon make access to medication more difficult. A council advising on the possible creation of a national pharmaceutical program is recommending that Canada establish a universal, single-payer, government-run, program for access to medications. The program would create an approved list of drugs.

Like the Canadian single-payer health system, all Canadians could access these approved drugs for a simple 2 to 5 dollar copay. A new government agency would be established to create the list of drugs, called a formulary, and to run the program. Unlike restrictions on access to other care, Canadians may be able to get drugs that are not on the approved list, either on their own or through their employer.

