

2019 Canadian Federal Election: Understanding what is at stake for rare diseases

What is National Pharmacare?

- Universal drug insurance plan being proposed in the 2019 federal budget
- Includes an "essential" list of **more commonly prescribed** medications
- As CF is a **rare disease**, an essential medicines list will **not** include many CF medications
- If the government becomes the single or first payer on essential medicines, rather than private insurers, your tax dollars will unnecessarily replace private insurance coverage

What are Specialty Drugs?

- Drugs that treat complex conditions (like CF)
- Often require special storage, handling, monitoring and administration
- Many specialty CF drugs are currently covered by provincial drug plans
- Under the 2019 budget, specialty drugs will be added to national pharmacare **after** essential drugs

Access to Drugs for Rare Diseases?

- These drugs are designed for the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of life-threatening or debilitating diseases
- For CF, three of these types of drugs are available in Canada; public coverage for these drugs is limited
- There are approximately 40 CF drugs in development and in the next five years, 95% of people living with CF can be treated with these drugs
- Canada does not have a fair process for reviewing and providing coverage for these drugs
- Public coverage of these life-changing drugs is a **must**

CF Canada is calling on the elected government to create a pharmacare model that will cover those who are uninsured or under-insured. A model that will close the access gaps for Canadians who need medicines the most.

CF Canada is calling on the elected government to develop a drug review process to fairly assess drugs for rare diseases. Canadians with rare diseases like CF need better access now.