

## Best practices and common challenges with implementing appropriate prescribing and use (AU) initiatives worldwide: A qualitative content analysis.

### Summary

We explored implementation strategies used by organizations and programs with expertise in AU. The objective of this query was to inform Health Canada's efforts in supporting a conversation to develop a national AU framework. We completed interviews and a document review of organizations with AU implementation experience. We identified 10 factors that influence AU implementation success.

### Implications

Use of educational interventions was the commonest strategy identified for AU implementation and health care professionals were the most frequent target for these implementation efforts. We outlined 23 recommendations for implementing AU approaches in a national setting. These findings can be used to inform the efforts of organizations and policy bodies developing and implementing systemic interventions worldwide.

Reference: **(Publication) [Three authors et al]. [Title]. [Journal. Year; Vol -Issue -Pg info ].**

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### What is the current situation?

- Each year millions of Canadians are not receiving drugs that can optimize longevity and quality of life; and, thousands of Canadians die from, and millions more experience, adverse drug reactions<sup>1</sup>
- Canada does not currently have a national strategy to address appropriate use (AU) of medications, however, there are several initiatives across the country and worldwide aimed at improving appropriate prescribing

### What did we do?

- The purpose of this project was to describe the various organizations that are conducting work in AU to understand the types of strategies used to implement AU initiatives. This report will help inform Health Canada's efforts to support a national conversation on the merits of a national strategy on appropriate prescribing and use of drugs.
- Qualitative interviews and a document review were used to identify how organizations implement AU approaches, and the key barriers and facilitators associated with these processes.

### What were the results?

- Development and dissemination of guidelines and evidence summaries were the most commonly used AU approaches across national, regional, and locally-operating organizations and programs. Regulatory action was commonly used in regionally-operating groups.
- Use of educational materials was the predominant implementation strategy used by groups implementing AU approaches.
- The majority of implementation approaches primarily targeted healthcare professionals (primary care physicians, nurses, and pharmacists)
- Barriers and facilitators impacting the implementation of AU approaches had commonalities that were categorized into **10 factors influencing implementation success**.
- The factors informed the development of **23 recommendations for implementing AU approaches**, based on actor and intervention types
- The study data identified **6 common principles** underpinning a national framework of best practices for the implementation of AU approaches

