

An abstract geometric composition on a dark navy blue background. On the left, a vertical cream-colored bar is divided by a thin teal line, with two horizontal teal lines intersecting it at points marked by small teal dots. To the right of this bar, a large teal shape is composed of several geometric parts: a trapezoid at the bottom, a rectangle to its right, and a trapezoid above the rectangle. A thin white vertical line runs down the center of the bottom teal trapezoid, ending at a small teal circle at its top edge. The word "Canada" is written in a white serif font, centered horizontally in the upper half of the image.

Canada

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Understanding the applicable framework

Assess federal, provincial or territorial requirements, governance and company commitments. IMC identifies its 2022 Code as the published framework and makes compliance a membership condition. It is not legislation applying to every company (Innovative Medicines Canada [IMC], 2022).

Identify status, locations and activity before agreement. Education funding, advice and policy work may raise different questions, and the company should distinguish external requirements from internal procedures.

What companies need to understand

Registered charities and nonprofit organisations have different Canadian tax status. Charities may issue official receipts for qualifying donations; NPOs cannot. Check status and payment rather than assume all patient groups can receipt support alike (Canada Revenue Agency [CRA], n.d.).

CRA permits public-policy dialogue furthering charitable purposes but prohibits party or candidate support or opposition. Lobbying and election requirements may also matter. Describe advocacy precisely rather than assume it is prohibited (CRA, 2020).

What patient organisations need to understand

IMC incorporates funding-transparency guidance addressing independence, responsibilities, acknowledgement and disclosure. It encourages multiple funding sources and cautions against groups created solely to further market access (IMC, 2022, sec. 3.3 and Annex A).

Agree support versus services and record purposes, deliverables and editorial authority. Distinguish requests to change a position from corrections or compliance requirements.

Communications and privacy

Health Canada assesses promotional purpose in the whole message and context; no single factor settles classification (Health Canada, 2023). Agree audience, channels, company role and reuse before drafting.

Establish federal, provincial or territorial privacy responsibilities for the actual information flows. A national project should not be assumed to have one identical arrangement for every participant.

Regulatory and access participation

Canada's Drug Agency requests relevant funding and assistance information in patient input, explaining that transparency does not automatically prevent use (Canada's Drug Agency, n.d.). Ontario directs relevant medicines through its provincial process or the national route as appropriate (Ontario Ministry of Health, 2026).

Confirm the correct body, format and deadline before consultation. One submission should not be assumed to cover every funding decision.

Practical example and local checks

For a supported national survey, agree methods, language coverage, data flows and control. Check funding documentation without assuming a service or sponsorship is a receiptable gift. Confirm the assessment route and record funding, assistance, participant scope and independent conclusions.