

Ongoing evaluation of drugs for listing purposes at INESSS: impact on wait times for recommendations concerning antineoplastics

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BACKGROUND

- ▶ In 2017, the Québec government published the *2017-2027 Québec Life Sciences Strategy*, in which it expressed the desire to make drugs that promise real added value available faster to patients.
- ▶ INESSS modified its evaluation process so that its recommendations are published within an average of no more than a month of those of CADTH. This enables Québec to engage in an agreement negotiation process at the same time as the other provinces that are members of the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA).

OBJECTIVE

For antineoplastics, to determine the time from obtaining a notice of compliance (NOC) from Health Canada to filing a submission with INESSS, and the time from the NOC to a recommendation being sent to the Minister of Health, this before and after ongoing evaluation was implemented.

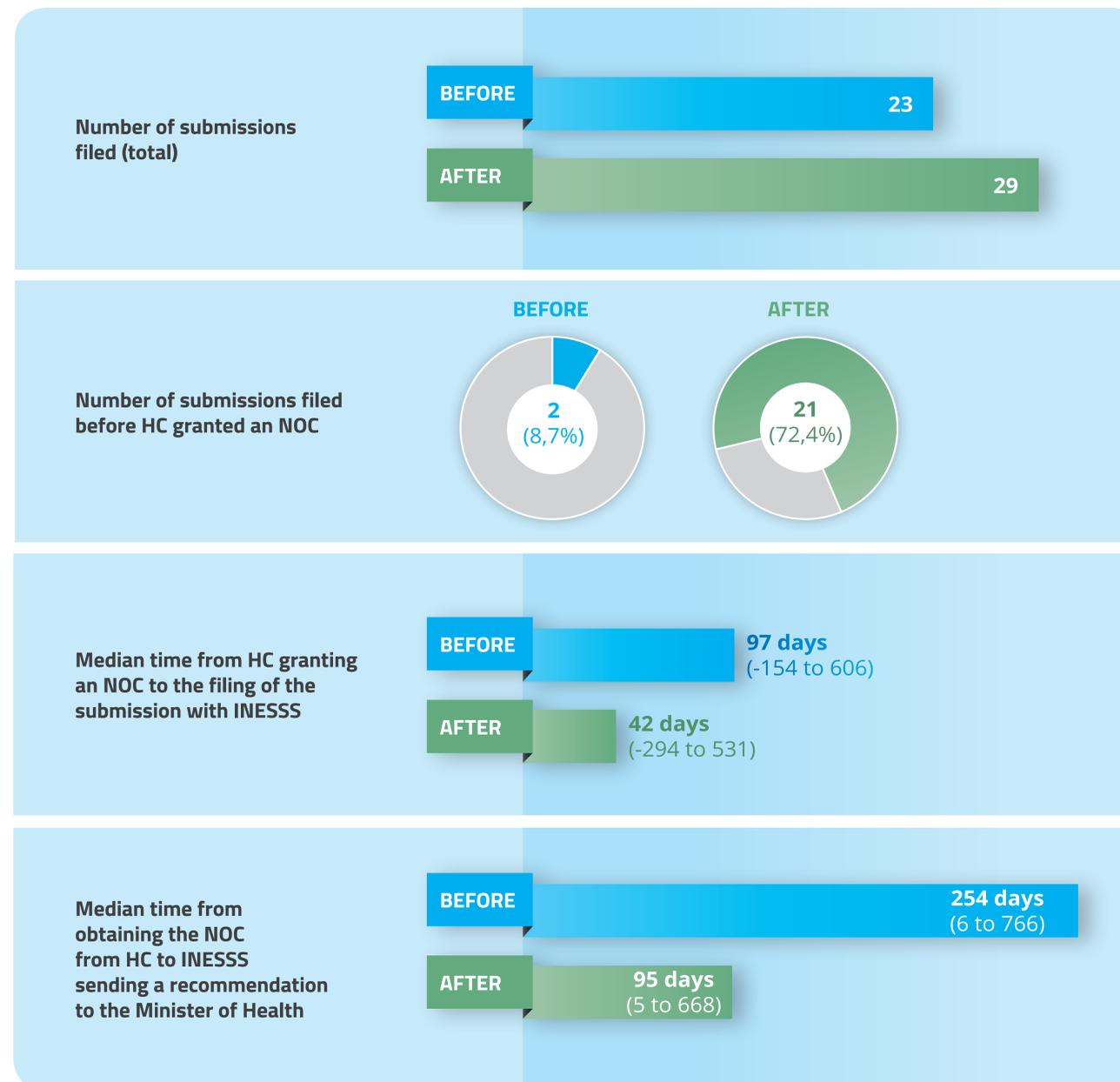
METHODOLOGY

Retrospective evaluation of the submissions filed between May 26, 2016 and May 30, 2017 (before ongoing evaluation was implemented) and from October 10, 2017 to October 10, 2018 (after ongoing evaluation was implemented).

- Files included from this evaluation were drug manufacturer submissions only. Files excluded from this evaluation were biosimilars, generics, new dosages and those who were withdrawn by drug manufacturer.

RESULTS

Impact, in the case of antineoplastics, of implementing ongoing evaluation of drugs for listing purposes:



NOC: Notice of compliance; HC: Health Canada.

■ Before the implementation of ongoing evaluation
■ After the implementation of ongoing evaluation

DISCUSSION

The year 2018 saw major changes to the work processes used by the team at INESSS responsible for evaluating drugs for listing purposes (EMFI). Documenting the time from sending recommendations to the Minister of Health to the inclusion of drugs on the *Lists of Medications* would be useful for a future project.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of ongoing evaluation has made it possible to meet the objectives concerning drugs set out in the *2017-2027 Québec Life Sciences Strategy*. Indeed, more submissions are filed before or soon after Health Canada grants a NOC, which enables INESSS to send its recommendations to the Minister of Health sooner.

REFERENCE

Gouvernement du Québec. Stratégie québécoise des sciences de la vie 2017-2027. [Online. Page consulted on 11 March 2019]: https://www.economie.gouv.qc.ca/fileadmin/content/publications/administratives/strategies/sciences_vie/strategie_sciences_vie.pdf