



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

1570 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203

Drug Importation Affordability Fact Sheet

February 2023

Program Overview

Senate Bill 19-005, which directs the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing to implement a Canadian Prescription Drug Importation Program, was signed into law by Governor Jared Polis in May 2019. In late 2020, the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) finalized a rule, putting in place the federal regulatory framework to successfully develop and operate a state-led Importation Program. After taking the provisions of the Final Rule into account, the Department released an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) in January 2021, seeking vendors for the program. The Department [announced all program partners](#) in August. On Dec. 5, 2022, the [Department submitted a Section 804 Importation Program \(SIP\) application](#) to the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for review and approval. Given federal review timelines, the Department estimates that the Colorado Importation Program will be operational by late 2023, at the earliest.

What Success Looks Like: Goals and Outcome Measures

The primary goal of importing prescription drugs from Canada is to bring cost savings to Colorado consumers. Success is measured in the short term by obtaining federal approval and implementing program operations. Long-term success is measured by successfully providing access to lower priced prescription drugs to most Colorado consumers.

How to Get Involved

Participation from health plans, Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs), pharmacies and employers is key to program success. For example, if employers wish to access these savings, they should urge the health plans and PBMs they partner with to allow for coverage of imported drugs. [Contact the Drug Importation Team](#) to learn more about participation.

To find more on Affordability tools including community partnerships, best practices, and more, [visit the Affordability website](#).

Stay Informed

We encourage you to sign up for updates on our drug importation work. Please fill out the [sign-up form](#) to be added to our list.

We can also be contacted via email at HCPF_005DrugImportation@state.co.us.

