

Topic: Real-World Evidence (RWE) – Integration of patient data from routine care into regulatory decision-making

Elaha Sarwar is an Epidemiologist with Health Canada's Marketed Health Products Directorate, with extensive experience across federal health organizations, including the Public Health Agency of Canada. She specializes in the evaluation, synthesis, and application of clinical and real-world evidence to support evidence-based regulatory and public health decision-making.

Elaha has led and contributed to national-level evidence syntheses and evaluations of emerging COVID-19 therapeutics, providing strategic recommendations to senior leadership on safety, effectiveness, and procurement options during the pandemic. In her current role at Health Canada, she supports the evaluation of post-market real-world evidence (RWE) to inform regulatory decisions related to health product safety and risk assessment. She also contributes to several initiatives aimed at advancing Health Canada's priorities for optimizing the use of RWE to improve timely access to health products, and strengthening regulatory decision-making frameworks.

Her expertise spans pharmacoepidemiology, adverse event surveillance, and the use of large-scale health and administrative data to characterize drug utilization and health outcomes. She has also contributed to the development and enhancement of the design and analytical approaches of the national surveillance system of opioid-related harms.

Elaha holds a Master of Public Health from the University of British Columbia and has published in peer-reviewed journals in the fields of risk assessment, pharmacoeconomics, and global health. She brings a practical, systems-level perspective on advancing the use of RWE to support agile, data-driven regulatory decision-making for health products in Canada.



Elaha Sarwar,
Epidemiologist,
Health Canada