

Built Here, Bought Here: Strengthening Self-Reliance to Support “Canada First” Healthcare

Anne W. Snowdon, Cindy Ly, Alexandra Wright and Saba Ghadiri

Appendix A

The pilot test aims to evaluate the usability and effectiveness of the platform in identifying domestic suppliers and manufacturers for sourcing health products available within Canada. The pilot testing process will examine the utility of the platform for procurement teams and provincial agencies to source and evaluate domestic suppliers in Canada and diverse sources of products globally.

Key evaluation areas: The pilot test evaluates two critical aspects of platform performance:

1. *Supplier searchability:*

- Assess whether procurement teams can easily find Canadian suppliers that meet their procurement needs
- Assess the use of the platform to identify global suppliers to advance diversity of suppliers

2. *Platform usability and function, including:*

- Search capabilities
- Support for current procurement practices
- Overall ease of use

Pilot test description

The evaluation will assess the platform’s functionality and usability in supporting sourcing and procurement of suppliers for health system products. During the pilot test, participants will use the platform to search for suppliers for healthcare and essential supplies. Each team will use the AI platform to identify Canadian and global suppliers for four specific products, evaluating the platform’s performance across different health product categories.

Each procurement team will independently test the platform by conducting supplier searches for four standardized products and one product of choice. This combination of standardized and team-selected products will help evaluate both the platform’s consistency in handling common procurement requests and its adaptability to varied procurement scenarios.

Products:

- Extra fine sutures
- Intermittent urinary catheters
- Examination gloves
- Epidural catheters

Additional product of choice

Pilot test instructions

This assessment evaluates the AI platform’s effectiveness in two key areas: individual product searches and overall platform functionality. Participants will conduct structured searches and provide feedback at two critical points during their evaluation:

1. *After each product search*: assess the effectiveness of finding specific sources or companies to supply the product
2. *After completing all searches*: evaluate the overall platform performance

Product-Specific Evaluation

Testing teams will complete a questionnaire immediately after searching for each individual product (extra fine sutures, intermittent urinary catheters, examination gloves and your chosen product):

1. How effectively did the platform help identify domestic and global sources for specific products?
2. Compare the use of this platform to current methods. How effective was this platform? Are there areas for improvement of the platform to strengthen it?
3. What specific product information did the platform provide that was:
 - a. Most valuable for decision making?
 - b. Missing but necessary for procurement?

Overall Platform Assessment

After completing all four product searches, participants will provide comprehensive feedback on the following:

1. Describe the specific procurement scenarios whereby this tool is most valuable?
2. How could this tool strengthen and support existing procurement approaches?
3. What are the gaps in the use of this platform that could be strengthened to improve its functionality and utility?
4. What are the processes that this platform supports within current sourcing and procurement practices?
5. Please describe strategies for improving the utility and functionality of this platform.