

e-Table 1: Magnitude and determinants of interprovincial variation in per capita spending on oral solid prescription drugs, 2002*

Variable	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI/NL
Provincial per capita spending	\$274	\$322	\$269	\$326	\$363	\$406	\$398	\$377	\$338
Per capita spending in all other provinces combined	\$368	\$359	\$358	\$356	\$350	\$339	\$354	\$355	\$356
Total difference	-25%	-10%	-25%	-9%	4%	19%	12%	6%	-5%
Prescription volume	-34%	-23%	-9%	-5%	-27%	86%	1%	-6%	5%
Prescription size	27%	18%	-13%	-2%	45%	-43%	17%	20%	-5%
Subtotal (volume effects)	-17%	-9%	-21%	-6%	6%	6%	18%	13%	0%
Prices	-4%	-4%	3%	-3%	-1%	7%	1%	-1%	4%
Generic use	-1%	-1%	-2%	-1%	0%	2%	-1%	0%	0%
Subtotal (price effects)	-6%	-4%	1%	-4%	-2%	9%	0%	-1%	4%
Therapeutic mix	-4%	1%	-4%	0%	-1%	4%	-4%	-4%	-7%
Drug mix	-2%	2%	-2%	1%	1%	0%	-1%	0%	-1%
Subtotal (therapeutic choices)	-5%	3%	-6%	1%	-1%	4%	-5%	-4%	-8%

*Per capita spending in each province is compared to the average per capita spending in the other provinces combined (i.e., not to the national average). Volume effects represent differences in the number of prescriptions for oral solid drugs (prescription volume) and in the average number of units dispensed per prescription (prescription size). Price effects represent differences in unit prices for products already on the market (prices) and in cost savings from the use of generic drugs when available (generic use). Therapeutic choices represent differences in the choice of product class from which to prescribe (therapeutic mix) and in the selection of specific drugs from within a class (drug mix). Data are drawn from the Canadian CompuScript Audit (IMS Health, Canada). Data collected from 2100 retail pharmacies were projected by IMS Health to the population of each province, with the exception of PEI and Newfoundland and Labrador, whose data are combined in view of their smaller populations. Cost-drivers interact multiplicatively and have been rounded to the nearest percentage.