

Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors): Standardized data extraction tool and characteristics of publicly funded medication plans for those on social assistance/low income, seniors and the general population under Age 65

A Synthesis of Canadian Drug Plans' Objectives, Characteristics and Tools used for Reimbursement

Name of Province:

The provincial website lists the following publicly funded prescription drug plans in your province:

Have we captured all of the publicly funded prescription drug plans in your province? If no, please list those missing.

We wish to synthesize information on the publicly funded prescription drug plans for three major beneficiary groups in your province. Please verify if the appropriate plan has been listed for the corresponding beneficiary group:

Beneficiary Group	Name of Prescription Drug Plan
Individuals in Need of Social Assistance	
Individuals Over the Age of 65	
General Population	

If no, please list the correct corresponding drug plans.

Individuals in Need of Social Assistance	
Individuals Over the Age of 65	
General Population	

In the following tables, we obtained data for each of the publicly funded prescription drug plans for these three major beneficiary groups from the provincial website and other online and public sources.

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Data collected for *publicly funded* prescription drug plans across Canada

	Social Assistance	Over the age of 65	General population
Name of prescription drug plan			
Who qualifies for this plan?	-	-	
What is the mandate, objective or mission of this plan?			
If a mandate, objective or mission is not available, please provide a description of this plan.			
Is there a premium ¹ for this plan? If so, is it monthly or yearly? How much? Does the premium vary on any factors, such as age or income?			
Is a deductible ² used for this plan? If so, is it monthly or yearly? How much? Does the deductible vary on any factors, such as age or income?			
Is a cap ³ used for this plan? If so, is it monthly or yearly? How			

¹*Premium*: a fixed amount, not related to the number of prescriptions, that a beneficiary must pay to be eligible for prescription drug insurance.

²*Deductible*: a limit up to which a patient pays the full cost of the drug. After the deductible is reached, the patient either does not pay or has reduced payments for prescriptions.

³*Cap*: a limit below which a patient does not pay or has reduced payments for prescriptions. After the cap is reached, full payment is required by the patient.

Social Assistance**Over the age of 65****General population**

much? Does the cap vary on any factors, such as age or income?

Is there a maximum out of pocket limit⁴ (either monthly or annual) for drug expenditures? If so, please specify amount and time period.

Are copayments⁵ used for this plan?

What is the copayment for this plan? Specify details.

Who are the first and second payers in your province?

Does cost-sharing vary on condition, income or other socio-economic factors? If so, detail plan variants.

Is there a maximum copayment made by the patient per drug dispensed?

⁴*Maximum out-of-pocket limit*: A limit that is set as a fixed dollar amount or as a percentage of income after which the insurer pays 100% of the drugs. Copayments are in place prior to the limit being reached.

⁵*Copayment*: an amount per drug or per prescription that a patient pays.

Social Assistance**Over the age of 65****General population**

**Is there mandatory generic drug substitution⁶ in your province?
Is there a least cost alternative⁷ program in place for generic medications in your province?**

How are generics priced in your province?

Does the same copayment policy apply to brand name and generic drugs?

**Is reference pricing⁸ used to determine the prices of drugs?
If so, specify details.**

Please list any future initiatives or changes to this plan.

⁶*Mandatory generic substitution*: where, regardless of what is written for the prescription, a pharmacist substitutes a generic, if available.

⁷*Least cost alternative price*: is the lowest unit cost established for a drug within a set of interchangeable drug products with the same active ingredient or combination of active ingredients and the same strength.

⁸*Reference pricing*: For drugs with different active ingredients that are therapeutically equivalent and used to treat the same conditions (here called a reference drug group), one reference drug (or a group of reference drugs) is chosen. The price of the reference drug is reimbursed (except for ordinary copayment). For drugs that are more expensive than the reference drug, the patient has to pay the expenses above the reference price.

Supplementary Table 1. Characteristics of Publicly Funded Medication Plans for those on Social Assistance/Low Income

	Name of Plan	Premium	Fixed Copayment	Co-Insurance	Deductible	Maximum Out-of-Pocket
Alberta	Alberta Adult Health Benefit (AAHB)	✘	✘	✘	✘	N/A
British Columbia	PharmaCare Plan C	✘	✘	✘	✘	N/A
Saskatchewan	Supplementary Health Program – Prescription Medications	✘	Up to \$2 per prescription dispensed for adults	✘	✘	✘
Manitoba	Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) – Prescription Medications Assistance for Participants	✘	✘	✘	✘	N/A
Ontario	Ontario Medication Benefit (ODB) Program	✘	\$2 per prescription dispensed	✘	✘	✘
Quebec	Public Prescription Medication Insurance Plan	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘
Newfoundland and	Foundation Plan (income	✘	✘	✘	✘	N/A

	Name of Plan	Premium	Fixed Copayment	Co-Insurance	Deductible	Maximum Out-of-Pocket
Labrador	support recipients)					
	Access Plan (low income families and individuals)	✘	✘	20% - 70% of total prescription costs, varies with income	✘	✘
Nova Scotia	Pharmacare Benefit	✘	\$5 per prescription dispensed	✘	✘	✘
New Brunswick	Plan E (Adults in Licensed Residential Facilities)	?	\$4 per prescription dispensed	✘	?	\$250 annually
	Plan F (Social Development Clients)	?	\$4 per prescription dispensed for adults (> 18 yrs.) and \$2 for children (< 18 yrs.)	✘	?	\$250 per family unit annually
	Plan G (Special needs children and children in care of the Minister of Social Development)	✘	✘	✘	✘	N/A
Prince Edward Island	Financial Assistance Medication Program	✘	✘	✘	✘	N/A

✘ = no; N/A = not applicable; -- = not covered; ? = unclear

Supplementary Table 2. Characteristics of Publicly Funded Medication Plans for Seniors

	Name of Plan	Premium	Fixed Copayment	Co-Insurance	Deductible	Maximum Out-of-Pocket
Alberta (Over age of 65)	Coverage for Seniors	✘	✘	30% of the cost of the prescription dispensed.	✘	\$25 maximum per prescription dispensed
British Columbia (Born before 1939)	Fair Pharmacare	✘	✘	After deductible, 25% of the cost of the prescription dispensed	Annually 0-2% of net income, varies with income	Annually 1.25-3% of net income, varies with income
Saskatchewan (Over age of 65)	Seniors' Medication Plan	✘	Maximum \$20 per prescription medication dispensed	✘	✘ (Unless GIS recipient, Seniors Income Plan [SIP], or supplemented with Special Support Program)	N/A
Manitoba	Same as general population. No age-based plan					
Ontario (Over age of 65)	Ontario Medication Benefit (ODB) Program	✘	\$2 per prescription dispensed if income <\$16,018 (single),	✘	\$0 if income <\$16,018 (single), <\$24,175 (couple)	N/A

	Name of Plan	Premium	Fixed Copayment	Co-Insurance	Deductible	Maximum Out-of-Pocket
			<\$24,175 (couple) Maximum \$6.11 per prescription dispensed otherwise		\$100 otherwise	
Quebec (Over age of 65, not eligible for private insurance)	Public Prescription Medication Insurance Plan	Annually \$0 - \$607, varies with income	✘	After deductible, 34% of the cost of the prescription dispensed	\$18 monthly	Monthly: \$85.75 Annual: \$1029
Newfoundland and Labrador (Over age of 65 and receiving Old Age Security Benefits and Guaranteed Income Supplement)	65Plus Plan	✘	Maximum \$6 of dispensing fee per prescription	✘	✘	✘
Nova Scotia (Over age of 65)	Senior's Pharmacare	Annually \$0-\$424, varies with income	✘	30% of the cost of the prescription dispensed	✘	Annual limit including premium and copayments \$382-\$806, varies

	Name of Plan	Premium	Fixed Copayment	Co-Insurance	Deductible	Maximum Out-of-Pocket
						with income
New Brunswick	New Brunswick Seniors Plan A (Over 65 yrs. and receiving Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) or are low income)	✘	GIS recipients: Maximum \$9.05 per prescription dispensed \$15 per prescription dispensed otherwise	✘	✘	Annual for GIS recipients: \$500 No maximum otherwise
	Medavie Blue Cross Seniors Prescription Medication Program (over 65 yrs. of age)	\$115 monthly	Up to \$15 per prescription dispensed	✘	✘	✘
Prince Edward Island (Over age of 65)	Seniors' Medication Cost Assistance Program	✘	Maximum \$8.25 per prescription dispensed plus pharmacy professional fee up to \$7.69	✘	✘	✘

✘ = no; N/A = not applicable; -- = not covered; ? = unclear

Supplementary Table 3. Characteristics of Publicly Funded Medication Plans for the General Population Under Age 65

	Name of Plan	Premium	Fixed Copayment	Co-Insurance	Deductible	Maximum Out-of-Pocket
Alberta (AB resident, under 65 yrs. of age)	Non-Group Coverage	Monthly premium Single = \$63.50 Family = \$ 118 Billed quarterly	✘	30% of the cost of the prescription dispensed	✘ (deductible applies to other health benefits, excludes medications)	\$25 maximum per prescription dispensed
British Columbia (BC resident)	Fair Pharmacare	✘	✘	After deductible, 30% of the cost of the prescription dispensed	Annually 0-3% of net family income, varies with income	Annually 2-4% of net family income, varies with income
Saskatchewan (Sask. resident)	Special Support Program	✘	✘	Before deductible, varies with income and monthly medication expenditures After deductible, 35% of prescription dispensed	3.4% of net family income Paid semi-annually	✘

	Name of Plan	Premium	Fixed Copayment	Co-Insurance	Deductible	Maximum Out-of-Pocket
Manitoba (MB resident)	Pharmacare Program	✘	✘	✘	Annually 2.97-6.73% of net income, varies by income, minimum of \$100	N/A
Ontario (ON resident, no or limited private insurance)	Trillium Medication Program	✘	After deductible, maximum \$2 per prescription dispensed	✘	Annually ~4% of net income Paid quarterly.	✘
Quebec (those not eligible for private insurance)	Public Prescription Medication Insurance Plan	Annual premium \$0 - \$660, varies with income	✘	After deductible, 34% of the cost of the prescription dispensed	\$18 monthly	Monthly: \$85.75 Annual: \$1029
Newfoundland and Labrador (NFLD resident, experience high medication costs)	Assurance Plan	✘	✘	Rate= (family income*cap rate)/total medication expenditure of family	✘	Annually 5-10% of net income, varies with income
Nova Scotia (NS resident)	Family Pharmacare	✘	✘	20% of the cost of the prescription dispensed	Annually 1-20% of net income, varies by	Annually 6-35% of net income, varies by income

	Name of Plan	Premium	Fixed Copayment	Co-Insurance	Deductible	Maximum Out-of-Pocket
					income	
New Brunswick (NB resident, no or limited private insurance)	New Brunswick Medication Plan	Annual premium \$200-\$2,000, varies with income	✘	30% of the cost to a maximum of \$5-\$30 per prescription dispensed, varies with income	✘	✘
Prince Edward Island (PEI residents, no private insurance)	Generic Medication Program, 8 disease-based medication plans, 4 medication-specific plans and 2 high-cost medication plans. Limited details of coverage available.					

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