Public prescription drug plan coverage for antiretrovirals and the potential cost to persons living with HIV in Canada: a descriptive study

STROBE Statement—checklist

	Item No	Recommendation	Reported
Title and abstract	1	(*a*) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract	Title and Abstract
		(*b*) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found	Abstract
Introduction			
Background/rationale	2	Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported	Introduction Page 2
Objectives	3	State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses	Introduction Page 2
Methods			
Study design	4	Present key elements of study design early in the paper	Methods Page 3
Setting	5	Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection	Methods Page 3, Appendix2
Participants	6	Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants	Methods Page 3
Variables	7	Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable	Methods Page 3,4 Appendix2
Data sources/ measurement	8*	For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group	Methods Page 3,4
Bias	9	Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias	Methods Page 3, 4
Study size	10	Explain how the study size was arrived at	Methods (based on number of drug plans that provide coverage for antiretrovirals) Page 3
Quantitative variables	11	Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why	Methods Page 3
Statistical methods	12	(*a*) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding	Not applicable
		(*b*) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions	Not applicable
		(*c*) Explain how missing data were addressed	Not applicable
		d) Describe analytical methods taking account of sampling	Not applicable

		strategy	
		(*e*) Describe any sensitivity analyses	Not applicable
Results			
Participants	13*	(a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed	Not applicable
		(b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage	Not applicable
		(c) Consider use of a flow diagram	Not applicable
Descriptive data	14*	(a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders	Tables 1 and 2
		(b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest	Not applicable
Outcome data	15*	Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures	Results Page 4, Figure 1, Appendix3
Main results	16	(*a*) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included	Not applicable
		(*b*) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized	Not applicable
		(*c*) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period	Not applicable
Other analyses	17	Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses	Results Page 5
Discussion			
Key results	18	Summarise key results with reference to study objectives	Discussion Page 6
Limitations	19	Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias	Limitations Page 7,8
Interpretation	20	Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence	Discussion Page 6-8
Generalisability	21	Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results	Limitations Page 6,7
Other information			
Funding	22	Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based	Competing interest statement