

Patented Conseil d'examen Medicine Prices Review Board du prix des médicaments brevetés

6<sup>th</sup> Edition

Annual Public Drug Plan Expenditure Report **2018/19** 

National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System



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*CompassRx, 6<sup>th</sup> edition: Annual Public Drug Plan Expenditure Report, 2018/19* is available in electronic format on the PMPRB website.

Une traduction de ce document est également disponible en français sous le titre : *CompasRx, 6<sup>e</sup> édition : Rapport annuel sur les dépenses des régimes publics d'assurance-médicaments, 2018-2019.* 

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### About the PMPRB

The Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) is an independent quasi-judicial body established by Parliament in 1987. The PMPRB has a dual regulatory and reporting mandate: to ensure that prices at which patentees sell their patented medicines in Canada are not excessive; and to report on pharmaceutical trends of all medicines and on research and development spending by patentees.

### The NPDUIS Initiative

The National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System (NPDUIS) is a research initiative established by federal, provincial, and territorial Ministers of Health in September 2001. It is a partnership between the PMPRB and the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI).

Pursuant to section 90 of the *Patent Act*, the PMPRB has the mandate to conduct analysis that provides decision makers with critical information and intelligence on price, utilization, and cost trends so that Canada's healthcare system has more comprehensive and accurate information on how medicines are being used and on sources of cost pressures.

The specific research priorities and methodologies for NPDUIS are established with the guidance of the NPDUIS Advisory Committee and reflect the priorities of the participating jurisdictions, as identified in the NPDUIS <u>Research Agenda</u>. The Advisory Committee is composed of representatives from public drug plans in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program, and Health Canada. It also includes observers from CIHI, the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH), the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec (MSSS), and the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) Office.

## Acknowledgements

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The PMPRB wishes to acknowledge the members of the NPDUIS Advisory Committee for their expert oversight and guidance in the preparation of this report. Please note that the statements and findings for this report do not necessarily reflect those of the members or their organizations.

Appreciation goes to Yvonne Zhang for leading this project, and to Tanya Potashnik and Jeffrey Menzies for their oversight in the development of the report. The PMPRB also wishes to acknowledge the contribution of the analytical staff Nevzeta Bosnic and Ai Chau and editorial staff Sarah Parker and Shirin Paynter.

### Disclaimer

NPDUIS operates independently of the regulatory activities of the Board of the PMPRB. The research priorities, data, statements, and opinions expressed or reflected in NPDUIS reports do not represent the position of the PMPRB with respect to any regulatory matter. NPDUIS reports do not contain information that is confidential or privileged under sections 87 and 88 of the *Patent Act*, and the mention of a medicine in a NPDUIS report is not and should not be understood as an admission or denial that the medicine is subject to filings under sections 80, 81, or 82 of the *Patent Act* or that its price is or is not excessive under section 85 of the *Patent Act*.

Although based in part on data provided by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), the statements, findings, conclusions, views, and opinions expressed in this report are exclusively those of the PMPRB and are not attributable to CIHI.



# Executive Summary

Prescription drug expenditures for the NPDUIS public drug plans increased by 5.6% in 2018/19 to reach \$12.1 billion, driven primarily by a marked increase in the use of higher-cost drugs and the introduction of Ontario's OHIP+ program.

The PMPRB's *CompassRx* report monitors and analyzes the cost pressures driving changes in prescription drug expenditures in Canadian public drug plans. This sixth edition of *CompassRx* provides insight into the factors driving growth in drug and dispensing costs in 2018/19, as well as a retrospective review of recent trends in public drug plan costs and utilization.

The main data source for this report is the National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System (NPDUIS) Database at the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), which includes data for the following jurisdictions: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, and the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

The findings from this report will inform policy discussions and aid decision makers in anticipating and responding to evolving cost pressures.

## Key findings

#### Prescription drug expenditures for the NPDUIS public drug plans increased by 5.6% in 2018/19, bringing annual spending to more than \$12 billion.

- Between 2013/14 and 2018/19, the total prescription drug expenditures for Canada's public drug plans rose by \$3 billion, for a compound annual growth rate of 5.5%.
- Drug costs, which represent 80% of prescription drug expenditures, grew by 5.8% from 2017/18 to 2018/19, while dispensing costs, which account for the remaining 20% of expenditures, grew by 5.1%.
- The NPDUIS public drug plans paid an average of 87% of the total prescription costs for 292 million prescriptions dispensed to almost 8 million active beneficiaries in 2018/19.
- The OHIP+ program accounted for a 7.6% increase in total prescription drug expenditures for Ontario in 2018/19 and a 4.4% push on spending for all NPDUIS public drug plans.

#### Drug cost growth for the NPDUIS public plans in 2018/19 was primarily driven by a greater use of higher-cost drugs as well as the introduction of the OHIP+ program in Ontario, and was offset in part by savings from generic price reduction and substitution.

- The increased use of higher-cost drugs continues to be the most pronounced driver, pushing costs upward by 6.7% in 2018/19, despite more modest impacts from the use of DAA drugs for hepatitis C.
- More than half of the total drug costs in 2018/19 can be attributed to less than 5% of public drug plan beneficiaries. High-cost drugs, which were used by less than 2% of beneficiaries, accounted for over one third of costs.

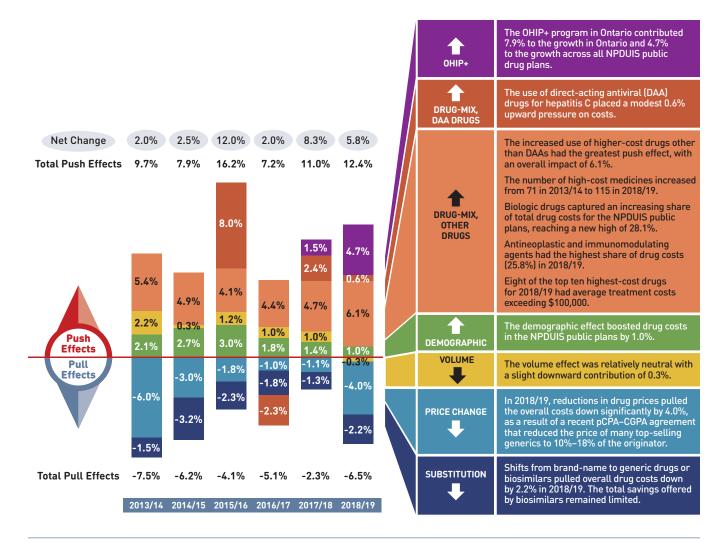
 In 2018/19, generic pricing policies and substitution had a notable -6.2% effect on costs, due in large part

• The overall increase in costs was also heavily

#### **Overview of Drug Cost Drivers**

to recent policies reducing the maximum price of many top-selling generics to 10%–18% of the originator price.

• Other factors, including the volume of drugs and the size of the beneficiary population, had a relatively small influence on the growth in drug costs for public plans.



Note: This analysis is based on publicly available pricing information. It does not reflect the confidential drug price discounts negotiated by the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance on behalf of the public plans.

Values for 2016/17 onward reflect a revised methodology; previous results have not been updated, as there would have been no notable change in the relative contribution of each effect. Data for Yukon is included from 2016/17 onward.

Values may not add to totals due to rounding and the cross effect. Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

# **Dispensing costs** in the NPDUIS public plans reached \$2.4 billion in 2018/19, marking notable growth over the previous year, largely as a result of Ontario's OHIP+ program.

- The overall growth in dispensing costs was 5.1% (or \$117.4 million) in 2018/19, a steeper increase than that observed in the previous three years, though results varied among individual plans.
- The OHIP+ program had a significant impact on the growth in dispensing costs, pushing costs upward by 3.5% (\$80.5 million) nationally and by 6.3% in Ontario.
- Apart from changes due to OHIP+, an increase in the number of active beneficiaries had the greatest impact on the dispensing costs in 2018/19, pushing overall costs up by 2.0%.
- The decrease in the volume of units dispensed to patients and a decline in the overall average dispensing fee per prescription pulled dispensing costs down by nearly 1%.



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# Introduction

Canadian public drug plan expenditures represent a significant portion of the overall healthcare budget. The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) estimated the total cost of prescription drugs in Canada to be \$34.3 billion in 2019, with the largest component (43.1%) financed by the public drug plans and the remainder paid by private plans (36.9%) or out of pocket by households and individuals (19.9%).<sup>1</sup>

*CompassRx* is an annual PMPRB publication that explores trends in prescription drug expenditures in Canadian public drug plans. It focuses on the shifting pressures that contribute to the annual change in drug and dispensing costs, including the switch in use between lower- and higher-priced drugs and changes in the beneficiary population, drug prices, and the volume of drugs used, as well as other key factors.

This edition of the report centres on the 2018/19 fiscal year, with a retrospective look at recent trends. The results of this study aid stakeholders in anticipating and responding to the evolving cost pressures that affect Canada's public drug plans.

The analysis focuses on the public drug plans participating in the National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System (NPDUIS) initiative, which includes all of the provincial public plans (with the exception of Quebec), Yukon, and the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program. These plans account for approximately one third of the total annual spending on prescription drugs in Canada.

Each public drug plan reimburses eligible beneficiaries according to its own specific plan design and implements policies related to the reimbursement of drug prices and dispensing fees. Summaries of the plan designs and policies are available in the Resources section of the NPDUIS <u>Analytical Studies</u> page on the PMPRB website.

Health Canada, the PMPRB, and the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) are responsible for drug approvals, price reviews, and health technology assessments, respectively. Details of the 2018/19 approvals and reviews are provided in Appendix A of this report.



# Methods

The main data source for this report is the National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System (NPDUIS) Database, developed by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). This database houses pan-Canadian information on public drug programs, including anonymous claims-level data collected from the plans that participate in the NPDUIS initiative. Data is reported on a fiscal year basis.

Results are presented for the following public drug plans: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, and the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program.

The analysis focuses exclusively on data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement. Results reported for Saskatchewan and Manitoba include the accepted prescription drug expenditures for individuals who are eligible for coverage but have not submitted an application and, therefore, do not have a defined deductible. Results reported for New Brunswick include the number of active beneficiaries enrolled in the Medavie Blue Cross Seniors' Prescription Drug Program and their related drug expenditures, which are offset by monthly premiums.

In Ontario, long-term care (LTC) prescriptions were separated out from the dispensing costs analysis, as their dispensing patterns may differ from those of the general beneficiary population.

As of October 2017, claims processed on behalf of the First Nation Health Authority (FNHA) in British Columbia are no longer submitted to the NPDUIS Database, including those previously captured through the NIHB Program. To mitigate the impact of this shift on the results for 2018/19, any remaining claims through the NIHB in British Columbia were excluded from the analysis in cases where the NIHB is reported individually but included in national totals.

The analysis of drug and dispensing cost drivers follows the methodological approach detailed in the PMPRB's *The Drivers of Prescription Drug Expenditures: A Methodological Report.*<sup>2</sup> Drug costs include any associated markups. Analyses of the average prescription size, as well as pricing, are limited to oral solids to avoid data reporting inconsistencies that may exist in the days' supply and unit reporting of other formulations. Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) levels reported here are based on CIHI NPDUIS data and reflect the ATC classification system maintained by the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology. Vaccines and pharmacy services are not represented in this report.

The methodological approach used in *CompassRx* is reviewed on an annual basis and updated as required to respond to changes in the pharmaceutical landscape and data access. Thus, the scope of the report and the data analyzed may vary slightly from year to year. New changes to the methodology are detailed in Methods and Limitations sections of each edition.

For a Glossary of Terms, see the Resources section of the NPDUIS <u>Analytical Studies</u> page on the PMPRB website.



# Limitations

Expenditure and utilization levels vary widely among the jurisdictions and cross comparisons of the results are limited by the plan designs and policies of the individual public drug plans, as well as the demographic and disease profiles of the beneficiary populations.

For example, public drug plans in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba provide universal incomebased coverage, while other provincial public drug plans offer specific programs for seniors, income assistance recipients, and other select patient groups, and the NIHB provides universal care to its entire population.

The NPDUIS Database includes sub-plan data specific to particular jurisdictions. This further limits the comparability of results across plans. For instance, Alberta, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island submit the data for a select subplans to NPDUIS. A comprehensive summary of the subplans available in the database, along with the eligibility criteria, is available in the Resources section of the NPDUIS <u>Analytical Studies</u> page on the PMPRB website.

Drug claims for beneficiaries in Ontario who also have coverage through the NIHB are primarily reimbursed by the Ontario Drug Benefit program, with any remaining drug costs covered by the NIHB. Therefore, claims reported for the NIHB include those coordinated with the Ontario Drug Benefit program.

Totals for the NPDUIS public drug plans are heavily skewed toward Ontario due to its size, and as such, the introduction of the OHIP+ program for Ontario residents aged 24 years or younger had a notable impact on the overall trends for 2018/19. High-cost medicines are defined as having an annual treatment cost greater than \$10,000. If medicines reach this threshold in any given year, they are included in the count for all other years. Thus, the number and composition of high-cost medicines in any given year may vary depending on the time of analysis.

As the methodology for this edition of the report has been revised to exclude NIHB service providers in British Columbia, historical results for the NIHB may not match those reported in previous edition.

Drug costs reported are the amounts accepted toward reimbursement by the public plans, which may not reflect the amounts paid by the plan/program and do not reflect off-invoice price rebates or price reductions resulting from confidential product listing agreements.

The prescription drug expenditure data for the public drug plans reported in this study represents only one segment of the Canadian pharmaceutical market, and hence, the findings should not be extrapolated to the overall marketplace.

This edition of the *CompassRx* reports on data up to and including the 2018/19 fiscal year. Any plan changes or other developments that have taken place since then will be captured in future editions.



# Trends in Prescription Drug Expenditures, 2013/14 to 2018/19

**Prescription drug expenditures for public plans increased by 5.6% in 2018/19**, following a notable rise of 7.4% the year before. The introduction of the OHIP+ program in Ontario contributed considerably to the overall annual increase in expenditures, offset in part by cost reductions resulting from recent initiatives aimed at lowering the prices of generic medicines in Canada.

#### Brief Insights: Drug Plan Designs

The expenditure and utilization levels reported in this study depend on the specific plan design and policies of each jurisdiction, as well as the demographic and disease profiles of the beneficiary population. This affects the comparability of results across plans.

Changes in plan designs or policies can have a significant effect on trends in any given year. In 2018/19, the introduction of universal coverage for Ontario residents aged 24 years or younger through the OHIP+ program had a notable impact on results. A brief summary of the program and its impact on the growth in provincial and overall prescription drug expenditures is given at the end of this section.

Supplementary reference documents providing information on individual public drug plan designs, policies governing markups and dispensing fees, and a glossary of terms are available on the NPDUIS <u>Analytical Studies</u> page of the PMPRB website.

#### Prescription Drug Expenditures = Drug Costs + Dispensing Costs (80%) + (20%)

Between 2013/14 and 2018/19, annual prescription drug expenditures for the public drug plans grew at a compound annual growth rate of 5.5%, rising from \$9.1 billion to \$12.1 billion with a steady increase of \$0.7 billion in each of the last two years (Figure 1.1).

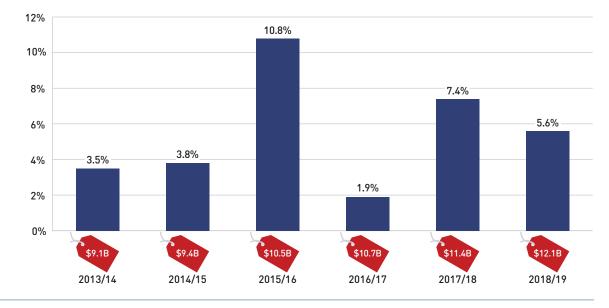


Figure 1.1 Annual rate of change in prescription drug expenditures, NPDUIS public drug plans\*, 2013/14 to 2018/19

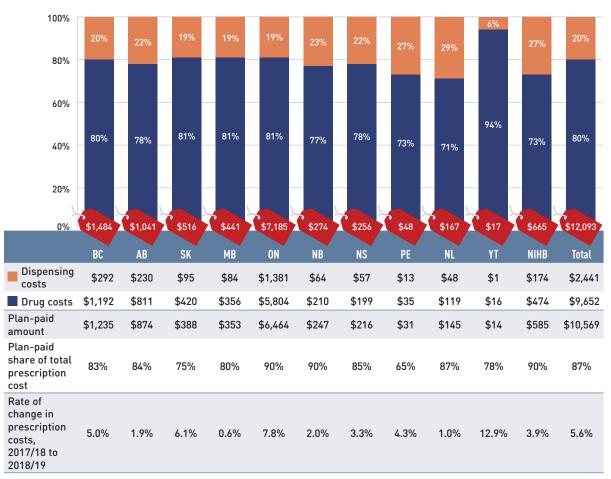
Note: This analysis only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement. \* British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, and the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

The prescription drug expenditures reported in this section represent the total amounts accepted for reimbursement by the NPDUIS public drug plans, including drug costs (with any associated markups) and dispensing costs. The overall growth in expenditures in 2018/19 consists of a 5.8% growth in drug costs and a 5.1% increase in dispensing costs. As both components grew at a similar rate, the drug cost and dispensing cost shares of expenditures remained consistent with the previous year, at 80% and 20%, respectively (Figure 1.2).

These amounts reflect both the plan-paid portions of the prescription costs as well as beneficiary-paid portions, such as co-payments and deductibles.

In 2018/19, public plans paid an average of 87% of the total prescription drug expenditures, while the remainder was paid by the beneficiaries either out of pocket or through a third-party private insurer. The beneficiary-paid share varied across jurisdictions, ranging from 10% to 35%.





Note: This analysis only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement. Markup amounts are captured in the drug costs. Values may not add to totals due to rounding.

Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

The annual growth in prescription expenditures is a function of increases in the number of active beneficiaries and their drug costs. While the size of the beneficiary population in most jurisdictions remained somewhat stable in 2018/19, the overall NPDUIS public plan beneficiary population grew by 15.1%, mainly due to a near 25% increase in Ontario following the implementation of the OHIP+ program. For more details on the impact of this change, see the program summary at the end of this section. In 2018/19, almost 8 million active beneficiaries filled approximately 292 million prescriptions that were accepted towards a deductible or paid for (in full or in part) by the NPDUIS public drug plans. Seniors made up a slight minority of the total active beneficiaries, due to the influx of beneficiaries under 25 in Ontario, though this share varied greatly across jurisdictions as a result of differences in plan design, eligibility, and the demographics of the beneficiary population (Figure 1.3).



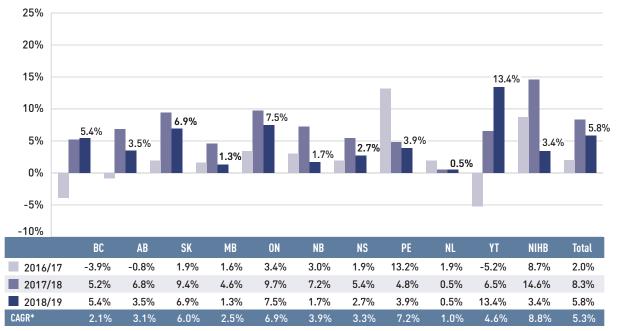
Figure 1.3 Share of active beneficiaries in NPDUIS public drug plans, senior and non-senior, 2018/19

Note: This analysis only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement. Not all of the sub-plan data for the jurisdictions is reported to NPDUIS, which may impact the ratio of senior to non-senior shares.
 Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information; Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 051-0005; Non-Insured Health Benefits Program Annual Report, 2018/19.

#### Prescription Drug Expenditures = Drug Costs + Dispensing Costs (80%) + (20%)

Drug costs, including markups, represent the largest component of prescription drug expenditures and have the greatest influence on overall trends. Following a notable 8.3% increase in 2017/18, drug costs rose by an additional 5.8% in 2018/19. The average rate of change over the last three years was 5.3% across the public plans.

Figure 1.4 reports the annual rate of change in drug costs for each NPDUIS drug plan from 2016/17 to 2018/19. Drug costs increased in all plans in 2018/19, though the rates of change varied across jurisdictions, ranging from approximately 1% to 13%.





**Note:** This analysis only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement. \* Compound annual growth rate.

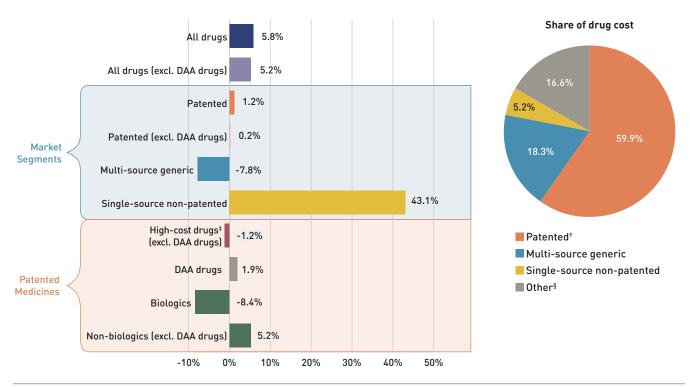
Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Figure 1.5 breaks down the annual rate of change in drug costs from 2017/18 to 2018/19 by market segment (bar chart) and gives the corresponding market share in 2018/19 for each (pie chart). These results provide a snapshot of how the distribution of sales across market segments has shifted over the last year. As the market status of a medicine is dynamic, the medicines contributing to any one segment may differ from year to year. This can have a significant effect on how changes are interpreted; for example, although the growth in sales for the overall Canadian patented market was -0.6% in 2018, the growth rate rose to 6.5% when previously

patented medicines were included, which suggests that medicines that left the patented market continued to be strong contributors to overall spending.<sup>3</sup>

Patented medicines represent the largest segment of the market, capturing 59.9% of public plan drug costs in 2018/19. Since 2017/18, some of the top-selling patented medicines in Canada have shifted out of the patented market segment, including the biologic medicine Remicade (infliximab), which was responsible for \$420 million in annual drug costs for the public plans in 2018/19. Despite this pull, the segment still increased by a modest 1.2%, driven mainly by the use of DAA drugs. Apart from the influence of DAAs, high-cost patented medicines— those with an average annual cost per beneficiary greater than \$10,000—and patented biologics both showed a negative growth rate in 2018/19 due to the change in patent status for Remicade.

Shifts in the patented market were also reflected in the single-source non-patented market, which experienced a remarkable growth rate of 43.1% as a handful of commonly used medicines changed patent status. Novorapid (insulin aspart), a diabetes treatment, moved from the patented to single-source non-patented market segment over the course of 2017/18, becoming the top medicine in the segment in 2018/19 with over \$40 million in sales. The high rate of increase among single-source non-patented medicines had a limited impact on the overall growth given their relatively small 5.2% share of total drug costs. Multi-source generics, which accounted for 18.3% of drug costs, declined by -7.8% in 2018/19. The next section will further elaborate on these findings.



# Figure 1.5 Annual rates of change in drug costs by market segment, NPDUIS public drug plans\*, 2017/18 to 2018/19

**Note:** This analysis only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement. DAA drugs are direct-acting antivirals are used in the treatment of hepatitis C.

- \* British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, and the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.
- <sup>†</sup> The patented medicines market segment includes all medicines that had patent protection in the period of study, whether or not the patent expired during that period. As such, the rate of growth does not reflect the loss of patent exclusivity for medicines over the course of the fiscal year.
- <sup>‡</sup> High-cost drugs have an average annual treatment cost of greater than \$10,000 and include both biologics and non-biologics.
- § This market segment includes devices, compounded drugs, and other products that are reimbursed by public drug plans but do not have a Health Canada assigned Drug Identification Number (DIN).

Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

For a Glossary of Terms regarding each of the market segments, see the Reference Documents section of the NPDUIS <u>Analytical</u> <u>Studies</u> page on the PMPRB website.

#### Prescription Drug Expenditures = Drug Costs + Dispensing Costs (80%) + (20%)

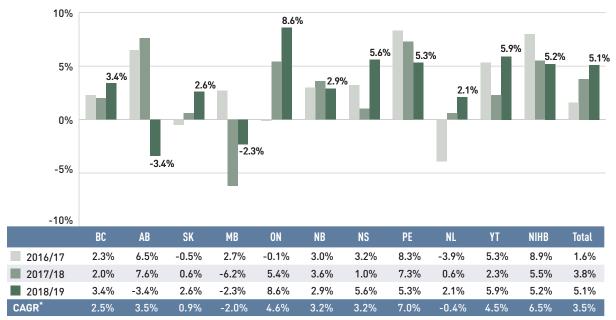
Dispensing costs make up an important part of prescription drug expenditures. Overall, dispensing costs in the NPDUIS public plans grew at a sizable rate of 5.1% in 2018/19, for a compound annual growth rate of 3.5% over the last three years. Figure 1.6 reports the annual rate of change in dispensing costs for each NPDUIS drug plan from 2016/17 to 2018/19. Jurisdictional variations may be due to changes in dispensing fee policies and plan designs, as well as changes in the number of prescriptions and their size, among other factors.

#### Brief Insights: Dispensing Fees

Alberta was the only public plan to launch notable changes regarding pharmacy services and fees in 2018/19: a new pharmacy funding framework came into effect including a lowered dispensing fee, limitations on dispensing frequency, and changes to other pharmacy professional fees, such as those related to medication assessment and clinical services.

For a summary of dispensing fee policies for each of the public drug plans, see the Resources section of the NPDUIS <u>Analytical Studies</u> page on the PMPRB website.

Figure 1.6 Annual rates of change in dispensing costs, NPDUIS public drug plans, 2016/17 to 2018/19

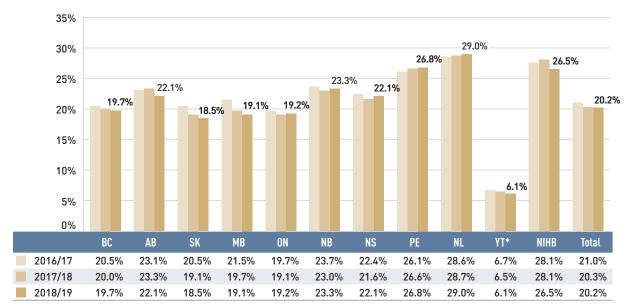


**Note:** This analysis only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement. \* Compound annual growth rate.

Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

As dispensing costs have grown at a slower rate than drug costs over the last three years, their share of overall prescription drug expenditures has declined slightly from 21.0% in 2016/17 to 20.2% in 2018/19.

Figure 1.7 depicts the trend in the dispensing cost share of total prescription expenditures for each NPDUIS drug plan from 2016/17 to 2018/19.



# Figure 1.7 Annual dispensing costs as a share of total prescription drug expenditures, NPDUIS public drug plans, 2016/17 to 2018/19

Note: This analysis only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement.
 Yukon allows for markups of up to 30%; as such, dispensing costs account for a smaller share of their total expenditures.
 Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

#### Brief Insights: OHIP+

On January 1, 2018, the Ontario government introduced the OHIP+ program, which offered prescription drug coverage to all children and youth aged 24 and under, regardless of family income.

This coverage was provided from January 1, 2018, to March 31, 2019, and as such is reflected in the full course of fiscal year 2018/19. The program was subsequently redesigned to focus exclusively on children and youth not covered by a private plan.

For the 2018/2019 period, the significant impact of the OHIP+ program extended not only to results for Ontario, but also to the total drug expenditures for all NPDUIS public drug plans, given Ontario's relative size. These effects were assessed by measuring the difference between inclusion and exclusion of the program; as this analysis does not distinguish between new beneficiaries and those who were previously covered by other public drug programs in Ontario, the results may overestimate the program's impact.

- The prescription drug expenditure of the OHIP+ program in 2018/19 totalled \$658 million, accounting for 9.2% of the prescription drug expenditures for Ontario and 5.4% of the total expenditures for the NPDUIS public drug plans over the entire fiscal year.
- More than 2 million active beneficiaries filled nearly 12 million prescriptions accepted for reimbursement by the OHIP+ program in 2018/19. If OHIP+ were excluded from the analysis, the overall beneficiary population would have declined by 3.6% in Ontario and 1.6% in all NPDUIS public plans, compared to the 24.9% and 15.1% increases reported in Figure 1.3.
- The implementation of the OHIP+ program resulted in an increase in the share of the non-senior beneficiary population in the Ontario public drug plan from 23% to 55%. In addition, due to the less frequent use of chronic medicines among those aged 24 and under, the average number of claims per beneficiary decreased in 2018/19.
- Without OHIP+, total prescription drug expenditures would have risen by only 0.2% in Ontario and 1.2% in all NPDUIS public drug plans, in contrast to the actual growth rates of 7.8% and 5.6%, respectively. Using the same scenario, drug costs in Ontario would have had no growth, compared to the actual rate of 7.5%, while the drug cost growth in all NPDUIS public drug plans would have been 1.1% instead of 5.8%.

Changes to OHIP+ beginning on April 1, 2019, will be reflected in the next edition of this report.



# 2. The Drivers of Drug Costs, 2017/18 to 2018/19

Drug cost increases in the NPDUIS public plans in 2018/19 were primarily driven by a continued rise in the use of higher-cost medicines, counterbalanced by significant savings from generic price reductions and substitution. Plan design changes in Ontario accounted for a 4.7% upward push on drug costs, resulting in an overall increase of 5.8%.

Changes in drug costs are driven by a number of "push" and "pull" effects. The net effect of these opposing forces yields the overall rate of change.

**Price change effect:** Changes in the prices of both brand-name and generic drugs, determined at the molecule, strength, and form level.

**Substitution effect:** Shifts from brand-name to generic drugs, as well as shifts to biosimilar use.

**Demographic effect:** Changes in the number of active beneficiaries, as well as shifts in the distribution of age or gender.

**Volume effect:** Changes in the number of prescriptions dispensed to patients, the average number of units of a drug dispensed per prescription, and/or shifts in the use of various strengths or forms of a medicine.

**Drug-mix effect:** Shifts in use between lower- and highercost drugs, including those entering, exiting, or remaining in the market during the time period analyzed.

In this section, a comprehensive cost driver analysis is used to determine how much public plan drug costs would have changed between 2017/18 and 2018/19 if only one factor (e.g., the price of drugs) was considered while all the others remained the same.<sup>1</sup>

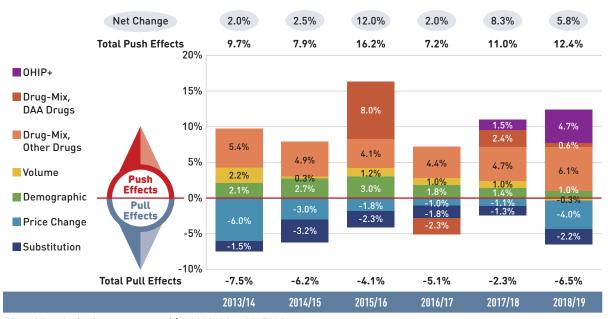
In addition to the standard annual effects, Ontario's OHIP+ program is treated as a separate factor in the cost driver analysis, encompassing all effects associated with the program (e.g., volume and demographic changes). As such, the OHIP+ effect isolates the overall impact from the significant plan design changes. Figure 2.1 provides insight into the pressures driving the rates of change in drug costs from 2013/14 to 2018/19.

In any given year, changes in the patient population and the volume of drugs will typically exert a slight to moderate upward pressure on drug costs. In 2018/19, these costs were significantly impacted by the addition of the OHIP+ program in Ontario, which extended drug coverage to all Ontario residents aged 24 and younger. The combined effect from this change resulted in an upward push of 4.7% on total drug costs for the NPDUIS public plans. Excluding OHIP+, the impact of the demographic effect has declined in recent years, from between 2% and 3% prior to 2016/17 to 1% in 2018/19, indicating a slower rate of growth in the number of active beneficiaries. The volume effect, which has steadily contributed an increase of approximately 1% to drug costs over the last few years, marked no significant change in 2018/19.

The most pronounced upward push on costs can be attributed to the use of higher-cost medicines. The drugmix effect exerted a significant 6.7% pressure on drug costs in NPDUIS public plans in 2018/19. While the use of DAA drugs for hepatitis C made up a smaller portion of this effect, the use of other higher-cost medicines jumped from a consistent 4% to 5% push on annual costs in recent years to a high of 6.1% in 2018/19.

Counterbalancing these upward cost pressures, generic substitutions and price reductions generally exert a downward pull on costs. The magnitude of these effects can vary from year to year depending on the timing of generic market entries and the implementation of policies

I In reality, multiple factors change simultaneously, creating a residual or cross effect. The cross effect is not reported in this analysis, but is accounted for in the total cost change.



#### Figure 2.1 Drug cost drivers, NPDUIS public drug plans\*, 2013/14 to 2018/19

Note: Historical values are reported for 2013/14 to 2015/16.

This analysis is based on publicly available pricing information. It does not reflect the confidential price discounts negotiated by the pCPA on behalf of the public plans.

Values may not add to totals due to rounding and the cross effect. Results for Yukon were included from 2016/17 onward.

\* British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, and the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

lowering maximum generic prices. Cost savings from price reductions were more significant in 2018/19 with an impact of -4.0%, largely due to a wide-reaching generic pricing initiative introduced in April 2018. Generic and biosimilar substitution pulled costs down by an additional 2.2% over the course of the fiscal year, for a combined total pull of -6.2%. In the absence of these cost-saving effects, drug costs in NPDUIS public plans would have increased by 12% in 2018/19.

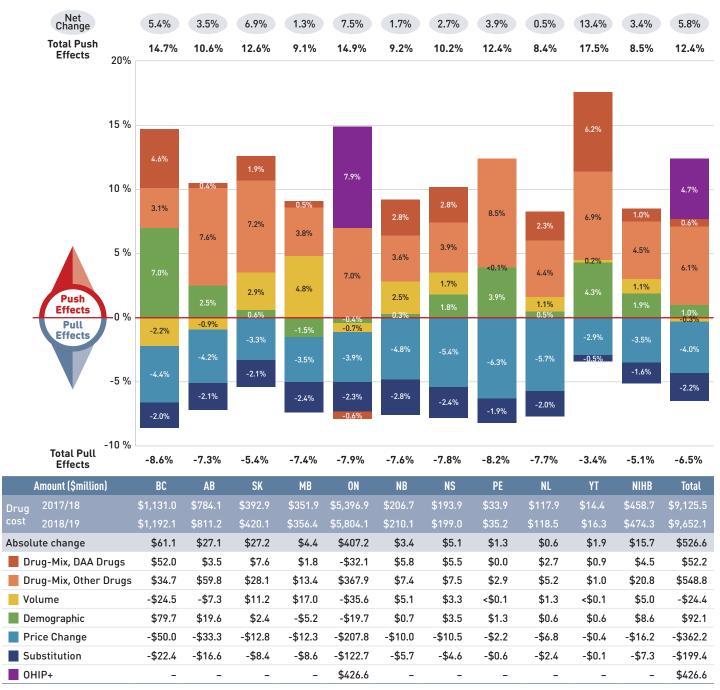
The overall 5.8% increase in drug costs in 2018/19 represents an absolute growth of \$527 million, with varying rates of growth among the public drug plans ranging from approximately 1% to 13% (Figure 2.2). These variations were mainly driven by differences in the magnitude of the opposing components of change. Jurisdictions with higher overall growth rates included Yukon (13.4%), Ontario (7.5%), and Alberta (6.9%).

The increased use of higher-cost drugs other than DAAs had the greatest push effect, with an overall impact of

6.1% (\$549 million) ranging from 3.1% to 8.5% across jurisdictions. The pressure from DAA drugs for hepatitis C increased drug costs by an additional 0.6% (\$52 million). Differences in the drug-mix effect across public drug plans may be related to plan designs, formulary listing decisions, or the disease profiles of the population, among other determinants. The impact of DAA drugs also varied, with the largest upward push in the Yukon (6.2%), followed British Columbia (4.6%), Nova Scotia (2.8%), and New Brunswick (2.8%). The use of DAAs declined slightly in Ontario, pulling costs downward by -0.6%.

The OHIP+ program in Ontario generated \$427 million in drug cost growth over 2017/18, pushing costs upward by 7.9% in Ontario and 4.7% across all NPDUIS plans.

The demographic effect boosted drug costs in the NPDUIS public plans by 1.0% (\$92 million) in 2018/19. The increase in the active beneficiary population may be the result of growth in the overall population of a jurisdiction, an increase in the number of Canadians eligible for senior coverage (65+), and/or plan design changes that expanded coverage to new population or patient groups. Note that demographic changes due to OHIP+ are presented separately. The volume effect, which has been relatively stable over the past few years, pulled costs downward by a slight 0.3% (\$24 million) in 2018/19. However, this effect was an important driver in Manitoba (4.8%), Saskatchewan (2.9%), and New Brunswick (2.5%).



#### Figure 2.2 Rates of change in drug costs, NPDUIS public drug plans, 2017/18 to 2018/19

Note: This analysis is based on publicly available pricing information. It does not reflect the confidential drug price discounts negotiated by the pCPA on behalf of the public plans. Values may not add to totals due to rounding and the cross effect.

Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

The cost-saving effects of generic and biosimilar substitution (-2.2% or -\$199 million) and price reductions (-4.0% or -\$362 million) were more pronounced in all jurisdictions. Together they represented 6.2% (\$562 million) in savings for the NPDUIS public plans in 2018/19, compared to just 2.3% the year before.

The key effects for 2018/19—price change, substitution, and drug-mix—are explored in more detail in the following section.

## Price Change Effect

This effect captures changes in the prices of both brandname and generic medicines. In 2018/19, reductions in drug prices generated significantly greater savings than the year before, pulling the overall cost levels downward by 4.0% (\$362 million). An analysis by market segment suggests that the downward pull was mainly due to the reduction in the average unit costs reimbursed in the multisource generic category, as the average unit costs of patented medicines remained relatively stable while the costs of single-source non-patented medicines increased.

The price change effect in 2018/19 was heavily influenced by the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA) and Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association (CGPA) joint five-year pricing agreement initiated on April 1, 2018, which reduced the prices of 67 of the most commonly prescribed generic medicines in Canada to approximately 10% to 18% of their equivalent brand name product. This initiative alone accounted for a -3.7% impact on the growth in overall drug costs in 2018/19. As the agreement consisted of a one-time reduction in costs, it is not expected to further impact cost growth in coming years.

Figure 2.3 reports long-term trends in average unit costs from 2009/10 to 2018/19 by market segment for (a) patented medicines; (b) multi-source generic medicines; and (c) single-source non-patented medicines, along with their corresponding 2018/19 market shares. The results are presented as an index, with the base year (2009/10) set to one and subsequent years reported relative to this value. The findings were calculated using the cost-weighted average of the average reimbursed unit cost changes at the individual medicine level. The analysis was restricted to oral solid formulations to ensure unit consistency.

From 2009/10 to 2018/19, the prices of patented medicines, which represent the largest market segment (59.9%), were relatively stable, while the prices of single-source non-patented medicines, the smallest market segment (5.2%), increased by an average of 25%.

Despite this significant rise, the impact of the single-source non-patented market segment was limited due to its small size.

The multi-source generic market segment shows a similar trend across all NPDUIS public drug plans: a rapid decline in the first few years after generic price reforms, followed by a more gradual decline from 2014/15 to 2016/17 as generic prices stabilized. Following the most recent price reforms, prices declined by an average of 3% in 2017/18 followed by a more notable 11% drop in 2018/19. As a result, the average multi-source generic unit cost across all jurisdictions in 2018/19 was less than half of the 2009/10 average.

#### Brief Insights: pCPA Initiatives

Through the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA), the provinces, territories, and federal government have been working collectively to achieve greater value for generic and brandname medicines for Canada's publicly funded drug programs.

#### **Generic medicines:**

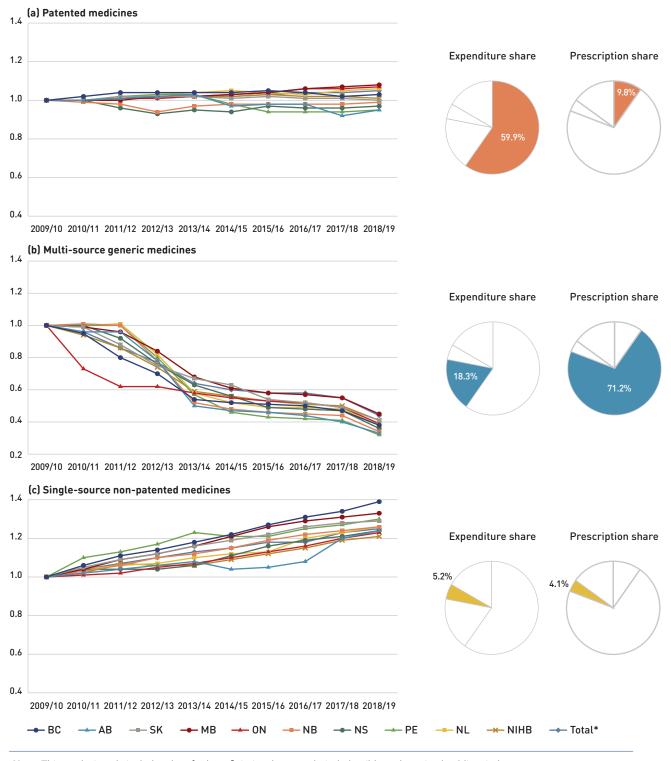
Between April 1, 2015, and April 1, 2016, the prices of 18 commonly used generic medicines were reduced to 18% of their brand-name reference products. In addition, a one-year bridging period was initiated on April 1, 2017, which further reduced the prices of six of the molecules to 15% of the brand reference price.

As of April 1, 2018, a five-year joint agreement between the pCPA and the Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association (CGPA) reduced the prices of 67 of the most commonly prescribed generic medicines in Canada by 25% to 40%, resulting in overall discounts of up to 90% off the price of their brand-name equivalents.

#### Brand-name medicines:

As of September 30, 2020, 383 joint negotiations or product listing agreements (PLAs) for brandname drugs had been completed by the pCPA, with another 30 negotiations underway. The impact of the negotiated prices is not reflected in this analysis.

For more details, see the overview of generic pricing policies and pCPA initiatives available in the Resources section of the NPDUIS <u>Analytical</u> <u>Studies</u> page on the PMPRB website.



#### Figure 2.3 Average unit cost index by market segment, NPDUIS public drug plans, 2009/10 to 2018/19

 Note: This analysis only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement. Yukon is not reported due to data limitations. The findings were calculated using the cost-weighted average of the average reimbursed unit cost changes at the individual drug level. The analysis was limited to data for oral solid formulations. The remaining share of prescriptions and expenditures includes devices, compounded drugs, and other products that are reimbursed by public drug plans but do not have a Health Canada assigned Drug Identification Number (DIN).
 \* Total results for the drugs plans captured in this figure.

Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

## Substitution Effect

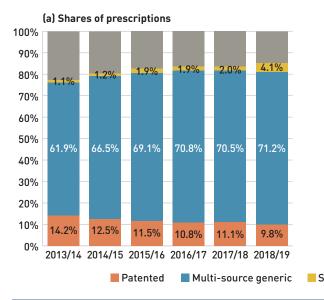
Shifts from brand-name to generic or biosimilar medicines pulled overall drug costs down by 2.2% in 2018/19, translating to a savings of \$199 million for the NPDUIS public plans. Three medicines—two ACE inhibitors and one antipsychotic—were responsible for the majority of the savings from generic substitution: perindopril (-0.8%), aripiprazole (-0.3%), and perindopril/diuretics (-0.2%). The total savings offered by biosimilars remained limited, with two immunosuppressants, one immunostimulant, and one insulin making a small but growing difference in overall drug costs: Inflectra/Renflexis (-0.1%), Brenzys/Erelzi (-0.07%), Grastofil (-0.04%), and Basaglar (-0.02%).

The share of prescriptions for multi-source generic medicines in public plans increased to 71.2% in 2018/19, a significant rise over 61.9% in 2013/14, while their corresponding share of total drug costs decreased over the same time period, from 24.9% to 18.3%. This six-year trend reflects the implementation of generic pricing policies, as well as the genericization of a number of commonly used medicines that lost patent protection over the past decade.

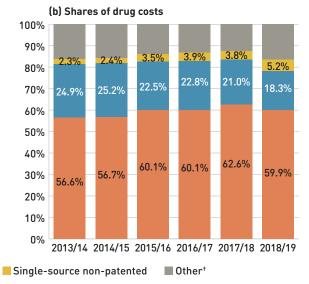
Patented medicines accounted for a decreasing share of prescriptions in 2018/19, dropping from 14.2% to 9.8% since 2013/14. However, their share of costs rose from 56.6% to 62.6% of total public plan drug costs between 2013/14 and 2017/18, remaining near 60% in 2018/19 despite the change in patent status of a few top-selling medicines. This trend has been primarily driven by the increased use of high-cost drugs such as biologics, oral oncology medicines, and the DAA drugs for hepatitis C.

Figure 2.4 reports the 2013/14 to 2018/19 trends in market shares by market segment: patented, multi-source generic, and single-source non-patented medicines.

Compared to traditional generic drug markets, the savings from biosimilars are limited by a slower initial uptake and lower price reductions. The biosimilar market is a more complex space; unlike generics, biosimilars are not identical to their reference products, but are rather highly similar versions, making it more difficult to exchange one drug for another.<sup>II</sup> Table 2.1 provides an overview of the biosimilars recently approved in Canada.



# Figure 2.4 Shares of prescriptions and drug costs by market segment, NPDUIS public drug plans\*, 2013/14 to 2018/19



**Note:** This analysis only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement. \* British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island,

Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, and the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

<sup>†</sup> This market segment includes devices, compounded drugs, and other products that are reimbursed by public drug plans but do not have a Health Canada assigned Drug Identification Number (DIN).

Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

II Health Canada's authorization of a biosimilar is not a declaration of equivalence to the reference biologic medicine. In Canada, the term interchangeability often refers to the ability of a pharmacist to change a patient from one medicine to another equivalent medicine without the intervention of the doctor who wrote the prescription. The authority to declare two products interchangeable rests with each province and territory.

#### Brief Insights: Biosimilars

In April 2016, the pCPA issued the *First Principles for Subsequent Entry Biologics* to guide negotiations and inform expectations for biologics and biosimilars. This was followed by the creation of the *Biologics Policy Directions* in September 2018 to further guide and define the process by which biologic and biosimilar products are negotiated and considered for reimbursement by Canada's public drug plans.

Additionally, the pCPA has recently partnered with Cancer Care Ontario on a joint oncology biosimilars initiative that recognizes the unique considerations in the implementation of oncology biosimilars. Effective June 2019, biosimilars will no longer be subject to CADTH review and will instead be filed directly with the jurisdictions and pCPA.

Recently, Canadian payers including public plans in Manitoba, British Columbia, and Alberta have undertaken a number of initiatives to increase biosimilar uptake. For more information, see the *Biologics in Canada, 2018* chartbook series on the PMPRB website. Inflectra, which was approved in Canada in 2014 and became available in the public market in 2016, was one of the first biosimilars available on the Canadian market<sup>III</sup> and has the highest list price discount. Inflectra and Renflexis, which was approved in 2017, were both approved for most of the same autoimmune inflammatory disease indications as their reference product Remicade. But despite having list prices set at approximately half that of Remicade, their market uptake has been slow, acquiring just 8.9% of the infliximab market by 2018/19. For more information on the market distribution of biologic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs in the public drug plans, see Appendix B.

It was observed that biosimilars with an acute indication had significantly higher rate of uptake than biosimilars with a chronic indication. Grastofil, a biosimilar of the white blood cell stimulator Neupogen, has the highest uptake in the public plans, at 92.4% in 2018/19. However, its 25% discount from the reference product list price places it at the bottom of the biosimilars in terms of price reductions. Brenzys and Erelzi, biosimilars of the anti-TNF drug Enbrel, were approved for market in Canada in 2016 and 2017, respectively. At approximately two thirds of the list price of their reference biologic, they had captured 11.9% of the prescription share of the etanercept market by 2018/19.

Reference biologic		Biosimilar					
Trade name (medicinal ingredient)	Drug cost, \$million (% share)	Trade name	Market approval	First reimbursement	Price discount <sup>†</sup> from reference biologic	Share of prescriptions for medicinal ingredient	
Remicade (infliximab)	\$419.9 (4.4%)	Inflectra	15-Jan-14	Q1-2016	46.8%	8.9%	
		Renflexis	01-Dec-17	Q3-2018	50.1%		
Lantus (insulin glargine)	\$148.2 (1.5%)	Basaglar	01-Sep-15	Q3-2017	25.0%	6.2%	
Neupogen (filgrastim)	\$6.1 (0.1%)	Grastofil	07-Dec-15	Q4-2016	25.0%	92.4%	
Enbrel (etanercept)	\$145.6 (1.5%) -	Brenzys	31-Aug-16	Q3-2017	33.7%	- 11.9%	
		Erelzi	06-Apr-17	Q4-2017	37.2%	11.770	

#### Table 2.1 Biosimilars recently approved in Canada, NPDUIS public drug plans\*, 2018/19

\* British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, and the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

<sup>+</sup> Based on Ontario Drug Benefit formulary listing price at the time of the biosimilar entry. This price may change over time; for example, the list price for Brenzys was recently lowered to match Erelzi.

Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

III Sandoz Canada's Omnitrope growth hormone was the first biosimilar approved in Canada, in 2009.

Recently, Canadian payers including public drug plans in Manitoba, British Columbia, and Alberta have undertaken or proposed a number of initiatives to increase biosimilar uptake. Future editions of this report will include the impact of these initiatives as they are implemented.

## Drug-Mix Effect

Shifts in use between lower- and higher-cost drugs pushed overall cost levels for the NPDUIS drug plans up by 6.1% or \$549 million in 2018/19. While the drug-mix effect was more pronounced in 2018/19 than in 2017/18, the impact of direct-acting antiviral (DAA) drugs for the treatment of hepatitis C, which is reported separately in this analysis, was less significant than previous years, adding 0.6% (\$52 million) to the total push effect.

Figure 2.5 reports the 10 drugs that made the greatest contribution to the drug-mix effect in 2018/19, together accounting for an upward push of 3.3% on overall drug

costs. The three drugs that made their first appearance on this list in 2018/19—Entyvio, Ibrance, and Tresiba received their market authorization from Health Canada as little as two to four years before. Ophthalmological drug Eylea had an appreciable uptake in 2018/19 and topped the list of high-impact drugs with a 0.5% contribution to the growth in drug costs. Five of the major contributors were oral oncology products and immunosuppressants with average annual treatment costs exceeding \$10,000, two of which exceeded \$50,000. The remaining four drugs were used by larger beneficiary populations to treat more common conditions.

The share of total drug costs for each of the top contributors is reported in the accompanying table. Note that this value differs from the contribution to the drug-mix effect, which measures the growth (increase or decrease in costs over time) rather than the costs themselves.

#### Spotlight on DAA drugs for hepatitis C

Direct-acting antiviral (DAA) drugs for hepatitis C have had a significant but variable impact on public plan drug costs over the last few years. With the entry of newer DAA drugs and expanded treatment criteria in 2017/18, the number of active beneficiaries increased by nearly 60% to reach 11,920. In 2018/19, the number of active beneficiaries using DAA drugs continued to increase at a slower pace, rising by 9% to 13,019 with a corresponding increase of \$52 million in overall costs.

Pricing agreements for most of these medicines were reached between 2014 and 2016 through the

pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA), with restrictions to public coverage based on the type or severity of illness. In 2017, a multistakeholder agreement was reached through the pCPA, which included several new drugs along with those that were already being reimbursed. Since its implementation, the criteria for listing DAA drugs in public drug plans has been expanded to include patients who were previously ineligible for coverage.

As these medicines are curative treatments, the number of active beneficiaries using DAA drugs will likely decrease in future years.

Average drug cost per beneficiary*	Total number of beneficiaries	Drug cost <sup>†</sup> \$million (share)	No. of marketed years <sup>‡</sup>	Therapeutic class <sup>†</sup>	Trade name (medicinal ingredient)	Contribution to the drug-mix effect, 2018/19
\$8,954	35,097	\$314.2 (3.5%)	5	Ophthalmologicals	Eylea (aflibercept)	0.48%
\$722	97,764	\$70.6 (0.8%)	4	Drugs used in diabetes	Jardiance (empagliflozin)	0.38%
\$15,044	2,830	\$42.6 (0.5%)	4	Immunosuppressive agents	Entyvio (vedolizumab)	0.36%
\$67,225	1,281	\$86.1 (0.9%)	4	Antineoplastic agents	Imbruvica (ibrutinib)	0.36%
\$69,922	2,714	\$189.8 (2.1%)	11	Immunosuppressive agents	Revlimid (lenalidomide)	0.35%
\$34,916	746	\$26.0 (0.3%)	3	Antineoplastic agents	Ibrance (palbociclib)	0.31%
\$943	155,647	\$146.8 (1.6%)	7	Antithrombotic agents	Eliquis (apixaban)	0.30%
\$17,174	18,572	\$319.0 (3.5%)	15	Immunosuppressive agents	Humira (adalimumab)	0.30%
\$1,004	146,974	\$147.6 (1.6%)	10	Drugs used in diabetes	Janumet (sitagliptin, metformin hydrochloride)	0.25%
\$488	22,530	\$11.0 (0.1%)	2	Drugs used in diabetes	Tresiba (insulin degludec)	0.22%

#### Figure 2.5 Top contributors to the drug-mix effect, NPDUIS public drug plans\*, 2018/19

**Note:** This analysis only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement.

\* British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, and the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

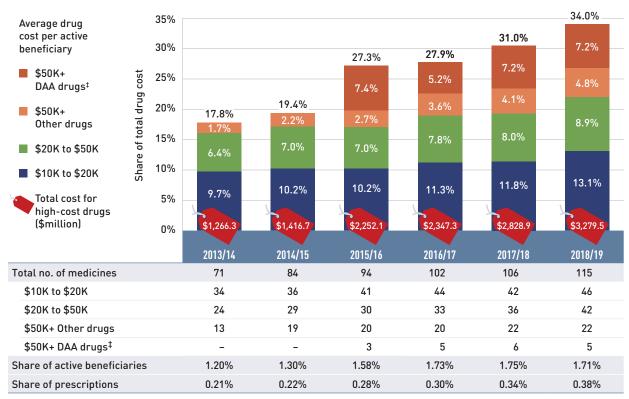
<sup>†</sup> All of the top contributors to the push effect are associated with product listing agreements (PLAs) from pCPA negotiations for one or multiple indications; however, reported drug costs do not reflect price reductions resulting from confidential PLAs.

<sup>‡</sup> The number of years since the drug was authorized for market by Health Canada, as of 2018/19.

§ The therapeutic class is based on ATC level 2. Jurisdictions that have special programs for ophthalmological drugs are not captured in the results.

Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

A growing number of high-cost drugs have been reimbursed by NPDUIS public plans in recent years, often targeting relatively small patient populations. The number of medicines with an average annual cost per beneficiary exceeding \$10,000 increased significantly from 71 in 2013/14 to 115 in 2018/19. These drugs, which accounted for 17.8% of the overall NPDUIS drug costs in 2013/14, accounted for 34.0% of the costs in 2018/19, representing only a very small percentage of active beneficiaries (1.7%). Although there has been a sustained growth in the drug cost share of all high-cost drugs in recent years, the steepest increase has been among those in the highest-cost band (\$50,000+). Figure 2.6 reports on the trends in the market for high-cost drugs from 2013/14 to 2018/19 by average annual drug cost per active beneficiary determined at the medicinal ingredient level: \$10,000-\$20,000; \$20,000-\$50,000; and \$50,000 or more.



# Figure 2.6 Trends in the number and cost of high-cost drugs\*, NPDUIS public drug plans<sup>†</sup>, 2013/14 to 2018/19

**Note:** This analysis only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement. These results may be underestimated, as some high-cost drugs are reimbursed through special public drug plan programs that are not captured in the NPDUIS data. The methodology for this analysis has been revised, and as such, historical results may not match those reported in previous editions.

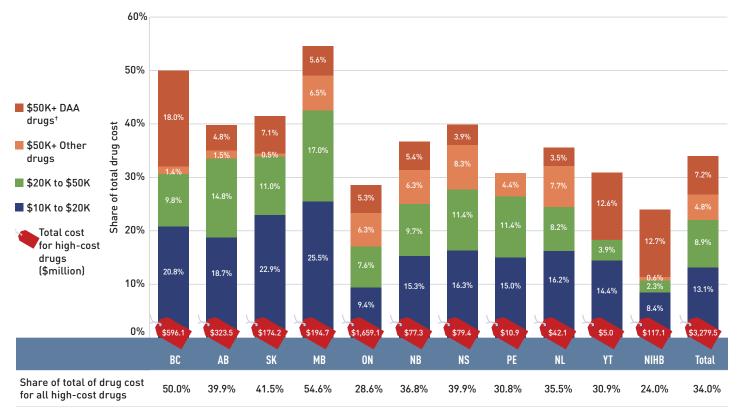
\* Average annual drug costs per active beneficiary exceeding \$10,000.

<sup>+</sup> British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, and the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

<sup>‡</sup> Direct-acting antiviral (DAA) drugs used in the treatment of hepatitis C.

Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Figure 2.7 provides a more detailed breakdown of the share of high-cost drugs by jurisdiction in 2018/19. High-cost drugs account for a greater share of costs in income- and premium-based programs; for example, they make up more than half of the total drug costs for public plans in Manitoba (54.6%) and British Columbia (50.0%). These types of programs require beneficiaries to be responsible for a portion of prescription costs, either as a percentage of income or a premium. As such, plan spending is more heavily skewed toward beneficiaries with higher overall costs, and therefore high-cost drugs.



#### Figure 2.7 High-cost drug\* share of total drug cost, NPDUIS public drug plans, 2018/19

Note: This analysis only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement. These results may be underestimated, as some high-cost drugs are reimbursed through special public drug plan programs that are not captured in the NPDUIS data.

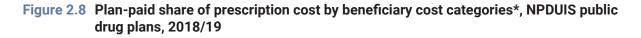
\* Average annual drug costs per active beneficiary exceeding \$10,000.

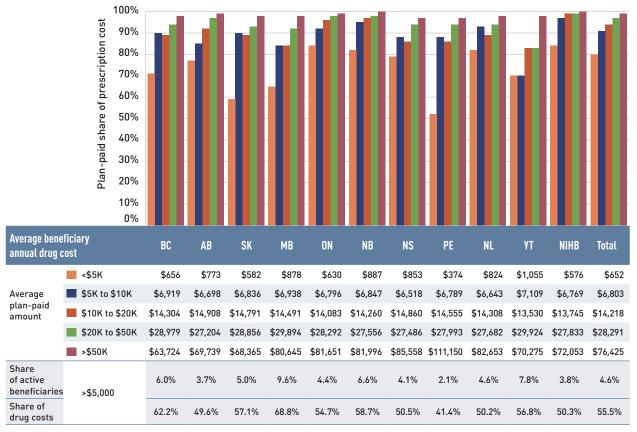
 $^{\dagger}$  Direct-acting antiviral (DAA) drugs used in the treatment of hepatitis C.

Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

NPDUIS public plans have paid the majority of drug costs for a relatively small number of high-cost beneficiaries in recent years<sup>1</sup>. As shown in Figure 1.2, NPDUIS public plans paid an average of 87% of total prescription costs in 2018/19, while the remaining 13% was paid by the beneficiaries either out of pocket or through a private insurer. To understand to what extent the plan-paid and beneficiary-paid portions of prescription costs are associated with the beneficiary's total annual drug costs, Figure 2.8 provides a breakdown of the plan-paid share of NPDUIS drug plan expenditures by average beneficiary annual drug cost level in 2018/19. Beneficiaries are grouped into five cost tiers: less than \$5,000; \$5,000– \$10,000; \$10,000–\$20,000; \$20,000–\$50,000; and \$50,000 or more. The figure shows that plans paid for a larger portion of prescription costs for higher-cost beneficiaries. In 2018/19, just under 5% of beneficiaries had annual drug costs over \$5,000 and accounted for over 55% of overall drug costs for the public plans. For beneficiaries in the highest-cost band—those with annual costs over \$50,000—the plan-paid share of costs ranged from 97% to close to 100%.

There were considerable jurisdictional differences in plan-paid shares due to variations in plan design, eligibility, and other factors.





\* Beneficiaries were categorized based on the amount that a drug program paid per year.

Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Table 2.2 reports the 10 highest-cost drugs reimbursed by the NPDUIS public plans in 2018/19 ranked by their average annual drug cost per active beneficiary. All 10 drugs were indicated to treat rare diseases, and eight had treatment costs exceeding \$100,000. Note that although Table 2.2 presents the overall results for all NPDUIS public drug plans, there are significant variations at the individual plan level.

# Table 2.2 Top 10 drugs with the highest average annual drug cost per active beneficiary, NPDUIS public drug plans\*, 2018/19

Trade name (medicinal ingredient)	Therapeutic class, ATC level 2	Average drug cost per beneficiary <sup>†</sup>
Myozyme (alglucosidase alfa)	Other alimentary tract and metabolism products	\$619,577
Soliris (eculizumab)	Immunosuppressants	\$453,883
Vpriv (velaglucerase alfa)	Other alimentary tract and metabolism products	\$322,482
Kalydeco (ivacaftor)	Other respiratory system products	\$262,432
Ilaris (canakinumab)	Immunosuppressants	\$147,371
Zavesca (miglustat)	Other alimentary tract and metabolism products	\$120,129
Remodulin (treprostinil)	Antithrombotic agents	\$111,872
Prolastin-C (alpha 1-proteinase inhibitor)	Antihemorrhagics	\$104,480
Ravicti (glycerol phenylbutyrate)	Other alimentary tract and metabolism products	\$79,882
Somavert (pegvisomant)	Pituitary and hypothalamic hormones and analogues	\$78,058

Note: This analysis only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement. This list of drugs does not include high-cost drugs reimbursed through special programs.

\* British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, and the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

<sup>+</sup> Represents the total drug cost divided by the total number of beneficiaries and, thus, may include beneficiaries with incomplete treatment costs. **Data source:** National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Over the past few years, biologic medicines have captured an increasing share of the total drug costs for the NPDUIS public plans. In 2018/19, the biologics market share grew by 13.8% to reach 28.1% (\$2.7 billion) of drug costs. The top four biologics—Remicade, Humira, Eylea, and Lucentis—were responsible for 13.5% of total NPDUIS drug costs.

Figure 2.9 reports on trends in the biologic share of total drug costs for the NPDUIS public drug plans, along with the growth in drug costs for this market segment and the current list of top 10 biologic drugs.

Alberta and Saskatchewan had the highest levels of biologic-related costs relative to total drug costs in 2018/19 (38.1% and 36.8%, respectively), while Yukon and Prince Edward Island had the highest rates of growth (28.8% and 22.7%, respectively). Variations among plans may be driven by differing plan designs, eligibility for reimbursement, the disease profiles of the population, and the size of the plan, among other considerations.

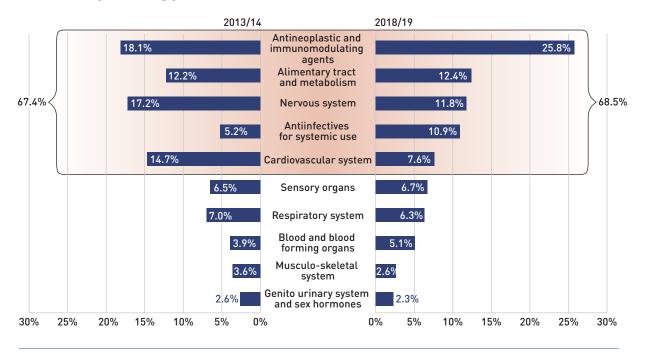


#### Figure 2.9 Biologic share of total drug costs, NPDUIS public drug plans, 2016/17 to 2018/19

**Note:** This analysis only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement. **Data source:** National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

An analysis by therapeutic class suggests that over two thirds of the total drug costs in 2018/19 were concentrated in a few classes. Antineoplastic and immunomodulating agents topped the list of therapeutic classes at 25.8% of drug costs in 2018/19, reflecting shifts in the funding of oral oncology medicines and a higher use of immunomodulating drugs. Alimentary tract and metabolism drugs now hold the second highest share of costs (12.4%), due in part to the newer antidiabetic therapies in the class. The drug cost share held by cardiovascular drugs, which include relatively low-cost drugs used by a large number of active beneficiaries, has decreased from nearly 15% in 2013/14 to just under 8% in 2018/19.

# Figure 2.10 Top 10 ATC\* level 1 therapeutic classes by share of total drug costs, NPDUIS public drug plans<sup>†</sup>, 2013/14 and 2018/19



Note: This analysis only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement.

\* Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) classification system maintained by the World Health Organization.

<sup>+</sup> British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island,

Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, and the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

# 3. The Drivers of Dispensing Costs, 2017/18 to 2018/19

**Dispensing costs grew at a steeper rate in 2018/19 than the year before**, driven mainly by the introduction of the OHIP+ program. Growth was tempered by a sustained decrease in the volume of units dispensed to patients as well as a decline in the overall average dispensing fee per prescription.

Like drug costs, changes in dispensing costs are driven by a number of "push" and "pull" effects. The net effect of these opposing forces yields the overall rate of change.

**Demographic effect:** Changes in the number of active beneficiaries, as well as shifts in the age or gender distribution.

**Drug volume effect:** Changes in the number of units dispensed to patients.

**Fee effect:** Changes in the average dispensing fee per prescription.

**Prescription size effect:** Changes in the number of units dispensed per prescription.

In this section, a comprehensive cost driver analysis is used to determine how much public plan dispensing costs would have changed between 2017/18 and 2018/19 if only one factor (e.g., the average dispensing fee) was considered while all the others remained the same.<sup>IV</sup>

In addition to the standard annual effects, Ontario OHIP+ program is treated as a separate factor in the cost driver analysis, encompassing all effects associated with the OHIP+ program (e.g., volume and demographic changes). As such, the OHIP+ effect isolates the overall impact from the significant plan design changes. Dispensing costs in the NPDUIS public plans increased by 5.1% or \$117.4 million in 2018/19, reaching a total of \$2.4 billion, a steeper growth rate than the 3.8% reported in 2017/18.

Ontario's OHIP+ program, which provided coverage to all Ontario residents age 24 and younger for the full course of fiscal year 2018/19, added \$80.5 million to the dispensing costs, pushing costs upward by 6.3% in Ontario and 3.5% across all the NPDUIS public drug plans.

Figure 3.1 provides insight into the pressures driving changes in dispensing costs from 2013/14 to 2018/19. Excluding the impact of OHIP+, the demographic effect was responsible for the largest annual contribution to dispensing cost growth in 2018/19, pushing costs up by 2.0%. The prescription size effect, which has been an important cost driver in previous years (ranging from 0.8% to 2.5%), contributed a 1.2% upward pressure on the growth in dispensing costs. Changes in the average dispensing fee per prescription decreased dispensing costs by 0.2%, while the volume effect was negative for the second consecutive year at -0.7%, reflecting a decline in the number of units dispensed to patients.

IV In reality, multiple factors change simultaneously, creating a residual or cross effect. The cross effect is not reported in this analysis, but is accounted for in the total cost change.



#### Figure 3.1 Dispensing cost drivers, NPDUIS public plans\*, 2013/14 to 2018/19

Note: Values may not add to totals due to rounding and the cross effect. In Ontario, the long-term care (LTC) prescriptions were excluded from the dispensing costs analysis, as their dispensing patterns may differ from those of the general beneficiary population. The LTC sub-program contributed

less than 0.1% to the growth of dispensing costs to the total NPDUIS public plans. This change in approach appears from 2017/18 onward.

\* British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, and the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

The overall rate of change in dispensing costs varied widely among individual plans, from a high of 8.6% in Ontario to a low of -3.4% in Alberta (Figure 3.2). The high growth in Ontario was driven mainly by OHIP+, without which dispensing costs would have increased by a more moderate 2.4%. In Alberta, changes in prescription sizes and fees, which were push effects in 2017/18, pulled costs down in 2018/19.

Long-term care (LTC) prescriptions were separated out from Ontario results in this cost drivers analysis, as they may not have a typical dispensing frequency, e.g., a significantly higher number of prescriptions per patient than in the general beneficiary population due to the more specialized needs of their patients. LTC patients only accounted for a small portion of all beneficiaries in 2018/19, contributing less than 0.1% to the 8.6% rate of growth in Ontario dispensing costs, and are therefore not displayed in the figure.



### Figure 3.2 Rates of change in dispensing costs, NPDUIS public drug plans, 2017/18 to 2018/19

Note: Values may not add to totals due to rounding and the cross effect.

\* In Ontario, the long-term care (LTC) prescriptions were excluded from the dispensing costs as their dispensing patterns may differ from those of the general beneficiary population. The LTC sub-program contributed less than 0.1% to the total increase in dispensing costs for all NPDUIS public plans.

Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

The contribution of the fee effect, which reflects changes in the average dispensing fee per prescription, is directly related to the individual reimbursement policy of each public drug plan.

In 2018/19, the rates of change in the average dispensing fee per prescription varied across NPDUIS drug plans. Most plans showed modest changes ranging from -1.9% to 1.4%, with the exception of Manitoba, which had a relatively large drop of 7.1% due to its recent fee-capping policy initiative. Over the past five years, Prince Edward Island and the NIHB have had a relatively high growth in fees, with compound annual growth rates of 2.7% and 0.9%, respectively.

Table 3.1 reports the average dispensing fee per prescription from 2013/14 to 2018/19, along with the rate of growth between 2017/18 and 2018/19 and the compound annual

growth rate for the entire period. The results are an average across all prescriptions and include a range of dispensing fees. An overview of the dispensing fee policies of the NPDUIS public drug plans is available in the Resources section of the NPDUIS <u>Analytical Studies</u> page on the PMPRB website.

Jurisdiction	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Growth rate, 2017/18 to 2018/19	CAGR*, 2013/14 to 2018/19
British Columbia	\$7.40	\$7.35	\$7.30	\$7.26	\$7.18	\$7.13	-0.7%	-0.8%
Alberta	\$13.29	\$14.13	\$14.29	\$14.33	\$14.45	\$14.18	-1.9%	1.3%
Saskatchewan	\$10.30	\$10.82	\$10.91	\$10.97	\$10.92	\$10.92	<0.1%	1.2%
Manitoba	\$8.97	\$9.19	\$9.35	\$9.48	\$8.82	\$8.19	-7.1%	-1.8%
Ontario <sup>+</sup>	\$7.41	\$7.72	\$7.72	\$7.59	\$7.55	\$7.58	0.4%	0.5%
New Brunswick	\$10.36	\$10.41	\$10.54	\$10.54	\$10.48	\$10.43	-0.5%	0.1%
Nova Scotia	\$11.49	\$11.31	\$11.19	\$11.25	\$11.32	\$11.48	1.4%	0.0%
Prince Edward Island	\$10.31	\$10.21	\$10.93	\$11.03	\$11.23	\$11.38	1.3%	2.0%
Newfoundland and Labrador	\$12.20	\$12.19	\$12.34	\$12.39	\$12.38	\$12.41	0.2%	0.3%
Yukon	\$5.81	\$5.77	\$5.76	\$5.80	\$5.81	\$5.76	-0.9%	-0.2%
NIHB	-	\$8.71	\$8.76	\$8.92	\$8.97	\$9.02	0.5%	0.9%

### Table 3.1 Average dispensing fee per prescription, NPDUIS public drug plans, 2013/14 to 2018/19

Note: This analysis only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement.

\* Compound annual growth rate.

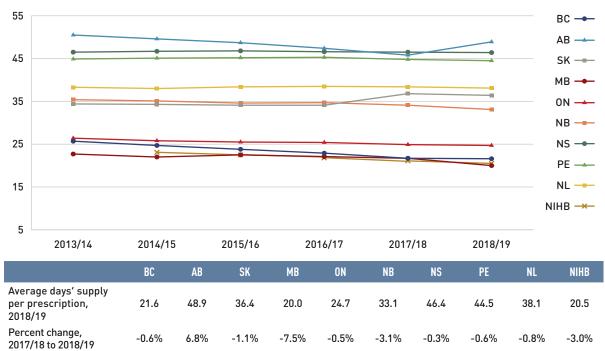
<sup>+</sup> Ontario long-term care (LTC) sub-plan prescriptions were excluded from all years of this analysis as their dispensing patterns may differ from those of the general beneficiary population. The addition of Ontario's OHIP+ program, implemented in the last quarter of 2017/18, was also excluded from this

The addition of Ontario's OHIP+ program, implemented in the last quarter of 2017/18, was also excluded from thi analysis to allow for comparison with historical results.

Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Various plans have specific policies in place related to fill frequency and compensation. The average dispensing fee per prescription is also related to prescription size: plans with lower average dispensing fees generally reimburse prescriptions with shorter days' supply and vice versa. British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and the NIHB, which had some of the lowest dispensing fees in 2018/19, generally reimbursed prescriptions with relatively small average sizes. Decreases in the average days' supply per prescription can exert an upward pressure on dispensing costs, as a greater number of prescriptions are required to dispense the same volume of drugs. The results for the average days' supply per prescription suggest that prescription size was either stable or declined slightly in most public drug plans from 2017/18 to 2018/19, with the exception of Alberta, where the average days' supply increased by 6.8% over the previous year. Manitoba and New Brunswick had the largest proportional decreases in average prescription size, at -7.5% and -3.1%, respectively.

Figure 3.3 depicts the trend in average days' supply per prescription from 2013/14 to 2018/19. The results represent the average across all prescriptions for oral solid formulations and encompass brand-name and generic medicines for both acute and maintenance therapies.



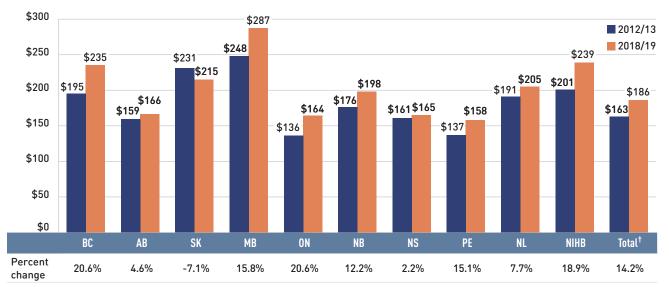
### Figure 3.3 Average days' supply per prescription, NPDUIS public drug plans, 2013/14 to 2018/19

 Note: This analysis only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement. The analysis was limited to data for oral solid formulations. Yukon is not reported due to data limitations.
 Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

Although the average days' supply and dispensing fee per prescription are useful measures for comparison, the roster of medicines covered by each plan also factors into the average dispensing cost. Comparing the dispensing costs for the same suite of medicines can provide greater insight into the differences between plans.

Figure 3.4 compares the dispensing costs across jurisdictions for the generic medicines reduced to 10% (previously 18%) of their brand-name reference price through the recent pCPA–CGPA agreement. Dispensing costs for one million tablets of each medicine are given for two fiscal years: 2012/13, which is the year prior to the implementation of the pCPA's first generic initiative, and 2018/19. These medicines collectively accounted for 19.7% and 21.8% of the total NPDUIS public drug plan dispensing costs in 2012/13 and 2018/19, respectively. Dispensing costs for the select medicines increased between 2012/13 and 2018/19 in most provinces, although the size of the increases varied considerably. The highest rates of increase were observed in British Columbia and Ontario, while only Saskatchewan experienced a moderate decrease. In British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the NIHB, dispensing costs for one million tablets exceeded \$200,000.

While the same drugs were studied across all plans, the disease profile of the beneficiary populations and the type of therapy for which the drugs were prescribed (acute or maintenance) influenced the average days' supply and, hence, the overall dispensing costs for each jurisdiction.



### Figure 3.4 Dispensing costs (\$thousand) for one million tablets, the pCPA-CGPA 10% generic medicines\*, NPDUIS public drug plans, 2012/13 and 2018/19

Note: Long-term care homes were excluded from this analysis, as they may not have a typical dispensing frequency due to the more specialized needs of their patients. The following sub-plans were not included in the analysis: BC: Permanent Residents of Licensed Residential Care Facilities; MB: Personal Home Care/Nursing Homes; NB: Individuals in Licensed Residential Facilities, Nursing Home Residents; ON: Long Term Care, Home Care and Homes for Special Care.

Yukon is not reported due to data limitations.

The methodology for this analysis has been revised; the analysis now only includes data for beneficiaries that met their deductible and received public reimbursement.

\* Subject to the pCPA-CGPA agreement that reduced the prices of these medicines to 10% of their brand-name reference price: atorvastatin, ramipril, venlafaxine, amlodipine, omeprazole, rabeprazole, rosuvastatin, pantoprazole, citalopram, simvastatin, clopidogrel, gabapentin, metformin, olanzapine, olanzapine ODT, donepezil, ezetimibe, quetiapine, ranitidine, and zopiclone.

<sup>+</sup> Total results for the drug plans captured in this figure.



- 1 Canadian Institute for Health Information. 2019. *Prescribed Drug Spending in Canada, 2019: A Focus on Public Drug Programs*. Ottawa, ON: CIHI. Available: <u>https://www.cihi.ca/sites/default/files/document/pdex-report-2019-en-web.pdf</u>
- 2 Patented Medicine Prices Review Board. 2013. *The Drivers of Prescription Drug Expenditures: A Methodological Report*. Ottawa: PMPRB. Available: <u>http://www.pmprb-cepmb.gc.ca/view.asp?ccid=887&lang=en</u>
- 3 Patented Medicine Prices Review Board. 2020. *Annual Report 2018*. Ottawa: PMPRB. Available: <u>https://www.canada.ca/en/patented-medicine-prices-review/services/reports-studies/annual-report-2018.html</u>



In Canada, Health Canada, the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB), and the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) are responsible for drug approvals, price reviews, and health technology assessments, respectively. This appendix provides an overview of recent trends in drug reviews and approvals.<sup>V</sup>

### Health Canada

Health Canada grants the authority to market a drug in Canada by issuing a Notice of Compliance (NOC) once it has met the regulatory requirements for safety, efficacy, and quality. In 2018, Health Canada issued NOCs for 40 new active substances: 15 biologics and 25 small molecule pharmaceuticals.

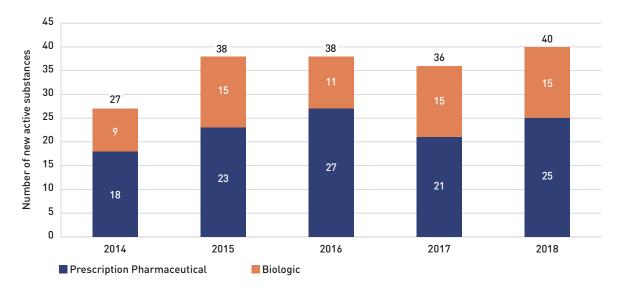


Figure A1 New active substances approved by Health Canada, 2014 to 2018

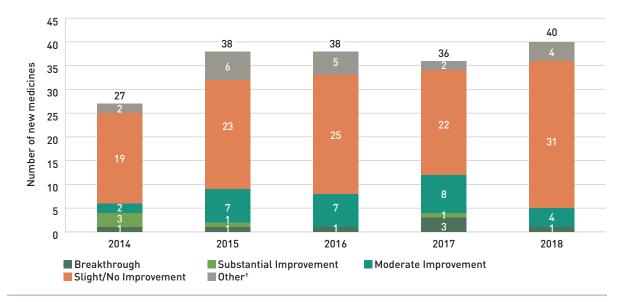
Note: "Prescription pharmaceutical" and "biologic" are terms used to define product types when submitting a Notice of Compliance (NOC) to Health Canada

Historical results have been updated and as such may not match those reported in previous editions **Data source:** Notice of Compliance Database, Health Canada.

V Note that use of the terms "new active substance", "medicine", and "medicinal ingredient" in this section follow the standard terminology used by each institution.

### Patented Medicine Prices Review Board

The PMPRB reviews the factory-gate prices of patented medicines sold in Canada and ensures that they are not excessive. As part of the current price review process, the PMPRB's Human Drug Advisory Panel (HDAP) evaluates each new medicine and assigns a recommended level of therapeutic improvement. The PMPRB completed scientific reviews for 160 of the 179 medicines approved by Heath Canada between 2014 and 2018. Over this five-year period, only 8% were classified in the Substantial Improvement or Breakthrough categories. Of the rest, three quarters demonstrated Slight or No Improvement over existing therapies, while 18% were classified in the Moderate Improvement category (Figure A2).



### Figure A2 New medicines reviewed by the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board by level of therapeutic improvement, 2014 to 2018\*

**Note:** Medicines reviewed by the PMPRB prior to the implementation of the 2010 Guidelines have been merged as follows: category 2 medicines are included in the Breakthrough category; category 1 medicines are included in the Slight/No Improvement category; and category 3 medicines are included in the Moderate Improvement category.

\* The year of reporting reflects the year in which the Notice of Compliance was issued (Figure A1) rather than the year that the PMPRB conducted its price review.

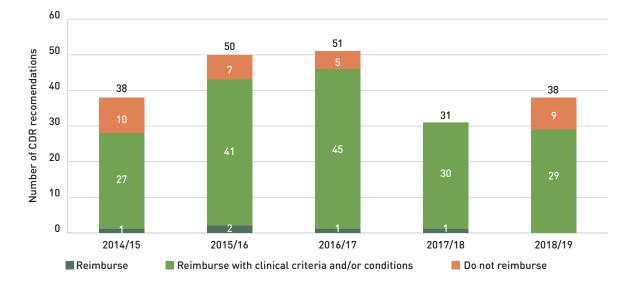
<sup>+</sup> New medicines not reported to the PMPRB as of the 2018 Annual Report.

Data source: Notice of Compliance Database, Health Canada; Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB).

### Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health

CADTH's Common Drug Review (CDR) provides reimbursement recommendations and advice to Canada's publicly funded drug plans (except for Quebec) based on an evaluation of the clinical, economic, and patient evidence of drugs marketed in Canada. The jurisdictions take these recommendations under advisement when making formulary listing decisions and in price negotiations. Figure A3 summarizes the CDR recommendations for fiscal years 2014/15 to 2018/19.<sup>VI</sup> The total number of CDR recommendations has varied from year to year, from a low of 31 in 2017/18 to a high of 51 in 2016/17. In 2018/19, 38 recommendations were issued: 29 medicines were recommended as "reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions" and 9 received a "do not reimburse" recommendation.

As of April 1, 2016, CADTH no longer accepts confidential drug prices, as the submitted prices are disclosed in the recommendations and reports.



### Figure A3 Common Drug Review reimbursement recommendations, 2014/15 to 2018/19

Note: Drugs may have multiple recommendations if they are reviewed for more than one indication.

CADTH currently uses three possible recommendation categories to guide the reimbursement decisions of participating jurisdictions. For this analysis, "Reimburse with clinical criteria and/or conditions" includes recommendations completed prior to May 2016 for "List with clinical criteria and/or conditions," "List in a similar manner to other drugs in class," and "Do not list at submitted price". "Reimburse" is equivalent to the previous "List" category, and likewise, "Do not reimburse" corresponds to "Do not list".

Data source: CADTH Common Drug Review Reports.

VI Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health Common Drug Review Database: http://www.cadth.ca/products/cdr

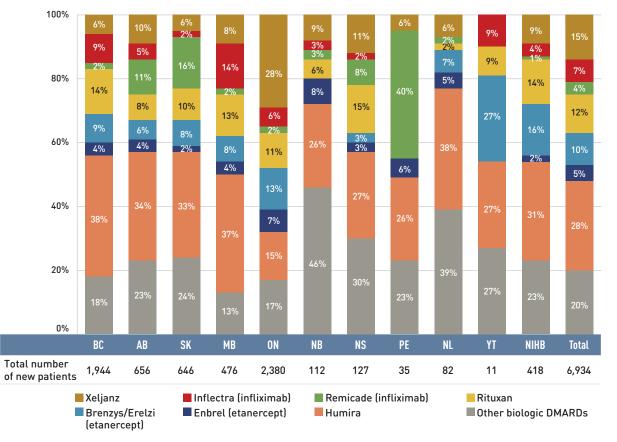


### Appendix B: Distribution of New Patients on Select DMARDs by Jurisdiction, 2018/19

To monitor the uptake of biosimilars in a key therapeutic market, Figure B1 presents the distribution of new public drug plan patients on biologic or targeted synthetic disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) by NPDUIS jurisdiction.

Xeljanz, a new targeted synthetic drug introduced in 2014, has quickly captured a significant share of the market for this class, accounting for 15% of new patients nationally in 2018/19, due in large part to its 28% share of new patients in Ontario. Market shares increased in 2018/19 for Humira, which is listed along with Xeljanz among the top medicines by drug cost in Appendix C. Due to the relatively small number of new patients across jurisdictions, interpretation of these results is limited. Variations among plans may be driven by differing plan designs, eligibility for reimbursement, and the demographic and disease profiles of the beneficiary populations, among other considerations.

Recently, Canadian public payers including Manitoba, British Columbia, and Alberta have undertaken a number of initiatives to increase biosimilar uptake. Associated with the policy implementation time frame, the changes will be reflected in the corresponding future editions of this report.



### Figure B1 Distribution of new public drug plan patients on select disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) by jurisdiction, 2018/19

Note: Other biologic DMARDs included Simponi, Orencia, Actemra, and Cimzia.

Results do not distinguish between use for rheumatoid arthritis and for other indications.

Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding

## Appendix C: Top 50 Patented Medicines by Drug Cost, NPDUIS Public Drug Plans, 2018/19 (\$million)

Rank	Trade name (medicinal ingredient)	Manufacturer	Total	BC	AB	SK	MB	NO	NB	NS	PE	N	ΥT	NIHB
-	Epclusa (sofosbuvir/ velpatasvir)	Gilead Sciences Canada Inc.	\$494.58	\$152.66	\$29.44	\$18.72	\$14.45	\$224.87	\$3.73	\$2.02	I	\$4.10	\$1.13	\$43.45
2	Humira (adalimumab)	AbbVie Corporation	\$343.24	\$92.79	\$48.06	\$27.09	\$28.04	\$112.43	\$7.27	\$9.99	\$2.60	\$5.73	\$0.72	\$8.52
ო	Eylea (aflibercept)	Bayer Inc.	\$314.45	I	\$4.72	\$4.73	I	\$296.70	\$4.49	ı	\$0.88	\$0.43	\$0.18	\$2.32
4	Lucentis (ranibizumab)	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.	\$208.24	I	\$8.34	\$1.85	I	\$187.56	\$5.92	I	\$0.21	\$2.15	\$0.02	\$2.20
2	Revlimid (lenalidomide)	Celgene Inc.	\$189.84	I	I	I	\$12.48	\$152.38	\$6.81	\$8.96	\$1.54	\$5.67	\$0.29	\$1.70
9	Lantus (insulin glargine)	Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.	\$148.19	\$16.34	\$16.66	\$9.75	\$2.68	\$84.64	\$2.07	\$2.14	\$0.22	\$0.22	\$0.06	\$13.42
7	Eliquis (apixaban)	Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada	\$146.88	\$11.30	\$14.79	\$4.45	\$3.06	\$109.28	\$1.35	\$1.07	\$0.18	\$0.12	\$0.07	\$1.21
œ	Enbrel (etanercept)	Immunex Corporation	\$137.01	\$29.06	\$18.33	\$8.08	\$12.22	\$53.63	\$3.51	\$4.43	\$0.59	\$1.06	\$0.29	\$5.82
6	Advair (salmeterol / fluticasone propionate)	GlaxoSmithKline Inc.	\$117.99	\$12.21	\$14.10	\$3.82	\$4.84	\$70.42	\$3.80	\$2.72	\$0.20	\$1.42	\$0.21	\$4.26
10	Xarelto (rivaroxaban)	Bayer Inc.	\$115.07	\$10.74	\$14.74	\$4.61	\$2.98	\$74.54	\$2.67	\$1.99	\$0.29	\$0.56	\$0.01	\$1.94
11	Januvia (sitagliptin)	Merck Canada Inc.	\$111.48	\$0.01	\$7.16	\$2.34	\$1.35	\$90.05	\$2.34	\$0.79	\$0.03	\$0.09	\$0.01	\$7.31
12	Janumet (sitagliptin / metformin hydrochloride)	Merck Canada Inc.	\$110.41	\$0.01	\$6.57	\$1.10	\$0.11	\$97.60	\$1.07	\$0.24	<\$0.01	\$0.01	I	\$3.70
13	Zepatier (grazoprevir/ elbasvir)	Merck Canada Inc.	\$110.12	\$41.01	\$5.77	\$7.11	\$4.73	\$38.97	\$0.74	\$0.34	ı	\$0.15	I	\$11.30
14	Invega Sustenna (paliperidone)	Janssen Inc.	\$89.94	\$19.69	\$1.28	\$3.54	\$2.15	\$50.66	\$3.00	\$0.55	\$0.16	\$0.64	\$0.03	\$8.25
15	Imbruvica (ibrutinib)	Janssen Inc.	\$86.12	I	I	I	\$4.81	\$74.34	\$2.38	\$1.89	\$0.12	\$1.99	\$0.22	\$0.37
16	Symbicort (formoterol fumarate dihydrate / budesonide)	AstraZeneca Canada Inc.	\$80.17	\$6.94	\$10.90	\$2.62	\$2.15	\$51.48	\$1.25	\$2.07	\$0.19	\$0.67	\$0.07	\$1.82

continued on the next page

Rank	Trade name (medicinal ingredient)	Manufacturer	Total	BC	AB	SK	MB	NO	NB	SN	PE	N	ΥT	NIHB
17	Prolia (denosumab)	Amgen Canada Inc.	\$75.89	\$1.11	\$1.93	\$0.76	\$0.29	\$71.27	\$0.16	\$0.19	\$0.02	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.14
18	Jardiance (empagliflozin)	Boehringer Ingelheim	\$70.94	I	\$5.40	\$1.09	\$0.64	\$59.58	\$0.54	\$0.05	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$3.62
19	Stelara (ustekinumab)	Janssen Inc.	\$66.05	\$8.62	\$12.12	\$7.34	\$4.48	\$25.75	\$3.00	\$2.17	\$0.30	\$1.28	\$0.04	\$0.96
20	Simponi (golimumab)	Janssen Inc.	\$63.03	\$11.24	\$9.65	\$5.86	\$3.92	\$22.21	\$2.73	\$2.17	\$0.33	\$1.77	\$0.16	\$2.98
21	Flovent HFA (fluticasone propionate)	GlaxoSmithKline Inc.	\$61.11	\$5.77	\$2.01	\$2.39	\$1.18	\$37.17	\$2.20	\$1.66	\$0.31	\$2.16	\$0.10	\$6.16
22	Harvoni (sofosbuvir/ ledipasvir)	Gilead Sciences Canada Inc.	\$57.41	\$12.55	\$2.64	\$2.56	\$0.07	\$28.96	\$2.06	\$0.87	I	I	\$0.93	\$6.76
23	Vyvanse (lisdexamfetamine dimesylate)	Shire Pharma Canada ULC	\$52.81	\$1.50	\$1.65	\$1.81	\$1.37	\$42.89	\$0.40	\$0.12	\$0.05	\$0.11	\$0.02	\$2.89
24	Trajenta (linagliptin)	Boehringer Ingelheim	\$52.53	\$6.53	\$2.90	\$0.92	\$0.58	\$39.66	\$0.63	\$0.04	\$0.02	\$0.01	ı	\$1.24
25	Triumeq (abacavir/ lamivudine/ dolutegravir)	ViiV Healthcare ULC	\$52.34	I	I	\$2.14	\$2.60	\$42.25	\$1.28	I	I	\$0.26	\$0.10	\$3.72
26	Spiriva (tiotropium)	Boehringer Ingelheim	\$48.59	\$2.70	\$6.86	\$1.91	\$0.84	\$31.77	\$1.31	\$1.31	\$0.17	\$0.40	\$0.08	\$1.24
27	Zytiga (abiraterone acetate)	Janssen Inc.	\$48.23	I	I	I	\$2.25	\$41.67	\$1.37	\$1.98	\$0.14	\$0.45	\$0.07	\$0.31
28	Genvoya (emtricitabine/ elvitegravir/cobicistat)	Gilead Sciences Canada Inc.	\$47.46	I	I	\$3.56	\$1.87	\$36.78	\$1.15	I	I	\$0.29	\$0.10	\$3.71
29	Tecfidera (dimethyl fumarate)	Biogen Canada Inc.	\$45.97	\$9.17	\$9.05	\$6.52	\$3.05	\$11.91	\$2.37	\$1.52	\$0.08	\$1.58	\$0.22	\$0.50
30	Soliris (eculizumab)	Alexion Pharma GmbH	\$45.58	I	\$6.26	I	\$1.66	\$35.50	\$0.47	ı	\$0.55	I	I	\$1.14
31	Xeljanz (tofacitinib)	Pfizer Canada ULC	\$43.47	\$7.54	\$3.17	\$2.40	\$2.37	\$23.32	\$0.63	\$1.84	ı	\$0.59	\$0.09	\$1.52
32	Breo Ellipta (vilanterol / fluticasone furoate)	GlaxoSmithKline Inc.	\$42.19	\$4.17	\$4.38	\$1.76	\$1.40	\$27.31	\$0.96	\$0.81	\$0.16	\$0.37	\$0.03	\$0.83
33	Botox (onabotulinumtoxina)	Allergan Inc.	\$42.02	\$5.84	\$6.13	\$1.08	\$1.11	\$25.58	\$0.37	\$0.89	ı	I	\$0.07	\$0.95
34	Orencia (abatacept)	Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada	\$39.15	\$11.88	\$5.99	\$2.36	\$1.28	\$13.36	\$0.83	\$1.42	\$0.25	\$0.27	\$0.08	\$1.44
35	Sandostatin LAR (octreotide)	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.	\$38.40	\$0.04	\$5.93	\$0.53	\$3.45	\$25.06	\$1.20	\$0.90	I	\$0.57	I	\$0.72
36	Invokana (canagliflozin)	Janssen Inc.	\$38.24	I	\$2.66	\$0.94	\$0.47	\$30.81	\$0.33	\$0.01	<\$0.01	\$0.01	<\$0.01	\$3.00
37	Xolair (omalizumab)	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.	\$37.93	\$3.01	\$5.56	\$1.31	\$1.38	\$24.77	\$0.27	\$0.51	I	\$0.23	\$0.04	\$0.85
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Rank	Trade name (medicinal ingredient)	Manufacturer	Total	BC	AB	SK	MB	NO	NB	NS	FE	N	ΥT	NIHB
38	Pradaxa (dabigatran etexilate)	Boehringer Ingelheim	\$37.76	\$2.70	\$4.39	\$1.02	\$0.91	\$26.86	\$0.72	\$0.66	\$0.09	\$0.09	I	\$0.32
39	Janumet XR (sitagliptin / metformin hydrochloride)	Merck Canada Inc.	\$37.50	I	\$1.52	\$0.22	\$0.08	\$33.65	\$0.25	\$0.03	<\$0.01	<\$0.01	I	\$1.73
40	Abilify Maintena (aripiprazole)	Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd	\$37.18	\$9.92	\$0.42	\$1.82	\$0.49	\$21.03	\$0.97	\$0.19	\$0.07	\$0.20	\$0.01	\$2.06
41	Jakavi (ruxolitinib)	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.	\$35.76	I	I	I	\$1.53	\$31.21	\$1.69	\$1.07	I	\$0.22	I	\$0.04
42	Xtandi (enzalutamide)	Astellas Pharma Canada Inc.	\$33.47	I	I	I	\$2.34	\$25.84	\$1.73	\$1.60	\$0.37	\$1.11	\$0.13	\$0.36
43	Lumigan RC (bimatoprost)	Allergan Inc.	\$33.31	\$2.85	\$2.06	\$0.98	\$0.75	\$24.08	\$0.55	\$0.92	\$0.23	\$0.40	\$0.01	\$0.48
77	Actonel DR (risedronate sodium)	Allergan Inc.	\$32.83	I	I	\$0.16	I	\$32.67	I	I	I	I	I	I
45	Lupron Depot (leuprolide acetate)	AbbVie Corporation	\$32.71	\$0.86	\$0.21	\$0.27	\$0.24	\$27.83	\$0.80	\$0.90	\$0.16	\$0.66	I	\$0.78
46	Esbriet (pirfenidone)	Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd	\$32.07	\$1.49	\$5.21	\$0.81	\$2.48	\$17.42	\$1.21	\$1.51	\$0.36	\$0.85	\$0.03	\$0.70
47	Copaxone (glatiramer acetate)	Teva Canada Ltd	\$31.09	\$4.66	\$8.86	\$3.26	\$3.37	\$9.21	\$0.49	I	\$0.22	\$0.50	\$0.07	\$0.45
48	Actemra (tocilizumab)	Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd \$30.19	\$30.19	\$5.38	\$4.90	\$2.32	\$1.79	\$12.94	\$0.27	\$0.64	\$0.03	\$0.40	\$0.08	\$1.44
49	Gilenya (fingolimod)	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.	\$29.42	\$7.29	\$11.20	\$0.56	\$2.00	\$5.17	\$1.14	\$1.17	\$0.14	\$0.21	\$0.09	\$0.45
50	Eprex (epoetin alfa)	Janssen Inc.	\$28.44	ı	\$0.86	\$3.97	\$0.21	\$20.90	\$0.66	\$0.32	I	\$0.16	\$0.01	\$1.34
Total			\$4,304.81	\$519.58	\$334.78	\$162.43	\$148.50	\$2,755.94	\$87.15	\$66.65	\$11.27	\$40.18	\$5.8 <b>9</b>	\$172.43
Shan	Share of all patented medicines	S	76%	80%	79%	75%	74%	75%	75%	73%	77%	72%	75%	74%
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### ppendix D: Top 50 Multi-Source Generic Drugs by Drug ost, NPDUIS Public Drug Plans, 2018/19 (\$million)

Rank	Medicinal ingredient	Total	BC	AB	SK	MB	NO	NB	NS	PE	NL	ΥT	NIHB
-	Atorvastatin	\$61.14	\$6.58	\$7.03	\$2.11	\$1.33	\$37.58	\$1.28	\$1.62	\$0.36	\$0.84	\$0.11	\$2.30
2	Pantoprazole	\$49.35	\$2.72	\$7.95	\$1.98	\$0.58	\$30.04	\$2.33	\$0.81	\$0.37	\$0.40	\$0.03	\$2.13
ო	Rosuvastatin	\$47.79	\$3.57	\$5.40	\$1.95	\$0.61	\$30.49	\$1.27	\$1.63	\$0.36	\$1.02	\$0.03	\$1.45
4	Amlodipine	\$38.18	\$4.09	\$4.29	\$1.44	\$0.75	\$24.11	\$0.70	\$1.00	\$0.27	\$0.26	\$0.0\$	\$1.21
2	Epinephrine	\$32.15	\$1.10	\$0.80	\$0.99	\$0.32	\$27.24	\$0.18	\$0.12	<\$0.01	\$0.06	\$0.01	\$1.34
9	Duloxetine	\$31.78	\$0.16	\$3.39	\$1.35	\$0.71	\$24.30	\$0.22	\$0.12	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.03	\$1.47
7	Pregabalin	\$28.33	\$0.08	\$0.55	\$1.37	\$0.30	\$24.18	\$0.38	\$0.42	\$0.03	\$0.11	\$0.02	\$0.89
œ	Gabapentin	\$26.02	\$5.06	\$2.81	\$1.14	\$1.22	\$9.47	\$0.85	\$0.50	\$0.16	\$0.09	\$0.03	\$4.68
6	Perindopril	\$24.55	\$0.54	\$2.86	\$1.08	\$0.27	\$16.58	\$0.97	\$0.86	\$0.12	\$0.40	\$0.01	\$0.87
10	Escitalopram	\$23.73	\$3.83	\$1.80	\$0.35	\$0.17	\$16.19	\$0.13	\$0.17	\$0.02	\$0.08	\$0.01	\$0.98
11	Sertraline	\$21.91	\$3.15	\$1.26	\$1.07	\$0.75	\$12.38	\$0.74	\$0.68	\$0.17	\$0.54	\$0.02	\$1.15
12	Hydromorphone	\$21.32	\$4.36	\$1.04	\$1.20	\$0.61	\$12.23	\$0.48	\$0.55	\$0.12	\$0.21	\$0.03	\$0.49
13	Aripiprazole	\$20.16	\$1.81	\$0.33	\$0.26	\$0.83	\$15.88	\$0.24	\$0.09	\$0.02	\$0.02	<\$0.01	\$0.68
14	Amoxicillin	\$19.91	\$1.27	\$0.81	\$0.86	\$0.29	\$14.40	\$0.19	\$0.19	\$0.09	\$0.27	\$0.01	\$1.54
15	Ramipril	\$19.66	\$4.00	\$1.90	\$0.83	\$0.45	\$9.79	\$0.43	\$0.43	\$0.16	\$0.38	\$0.07	\$1.23
16	Salbutamol	\$18.66	\$2.30	\$0.69	\$0.74	\$0.56	\$11.10	\$0.66	\$0.58	\$0.13	\$0.44	\$0.03	\$1.43
17	Quetiapine	\$18.04	\$2.32	\$0.71	\$0.74	\$0.75	\$11.02	\$0.78	\$0.33	\$0.05	\$0.36	\$0.01	\$0.96
18	Lansoprazole	\$17.94	\$0.36	\$1.83	\$0.13	\$0.09	\$14.75	\$0.14	\$0.0\$	<\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.01	\$0.57
19	Perindopril and diuretics	\$17.81	I	\$2.29	\$1.31	\$0.27	\$11.09	\$0.86	\$0.72	\$0.08	\$0.38	<\$0.01	\$0.81
20	Clozapine	\$17.07	\$9.12	\$0.49	\$1.73	\$2.60	I	\$0.83	I	\$0.05	\$0.56	\$0.01	\$1.67
21	Nifedipine	\$17.02	\$0.48	\$1.73	\$0.65	\$0.67	\$9.68	\$1.09	\$0.91	\$0.14	\$0.88	\$0.01	\$0.79
22	Metoprolol	\$17.02	\$2.20	\$2.38	\$1.24	\$0.78	\$7.06	\$0.61	\$1.07	\$0.19	\$0.81	\$0.02	\$0.67
23	Cefalexin	\$16.68	\$1.29	\$0.84	\$1.38	\$0.43	\$9.92	\$0.16	\$0.23	\$0.07	\$0.19	\$0.01	\$2.15
24	Olanzapine	\$16.64	\$2.69	\$0.54	\$0.57	\$0.78	\$9.66	\$0.78	\$0.28	\$0.10	\$0.24	\$0.01	\$0.98
25	Diltiazem	\$16.29	\$2.28	\$1.40	\$0.64	\$0.49	\$9.55	\$0.67	\$0.55	\$0.14	\$0.19	\$0.02	\$0.36
26	Candesartan	\$16.11	\$1.53	\$1.92	\$0.78	\$0.19	\$10.11	\$0.30	\$0.43	\$0.08	\$0.37	\$0.02	\$0.38
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Rank	Medicinal ingredient	Total	BC	AB	SK	MB	NO	NB	SN	PE	NL	ΥT	NIHB
27	Metformin	\$16.06	\$2.04	\$1.88	\$0.95	\$0.46	\$8.09	\$0.39	\$0.52	\$0.15	\$0.33	\$0.03	\$1.23
28	Oxycodone/paracetamol	\$15.99	\$0.71	\$0.70	<\$0.01	\$0.50	\$11.95	\$0.48	\$0.17	\$0.09	\$0.37	<\$0.01	\$1.03
29	Tamsulosin	\$15.55	\$1.66	\$2.93	\$0.81	\$0.33	\$8.16	\$0.52	\$0.35	\$0.12	\$0.30	\$0.03	\$0.34
30	Venlafaxine	\$15.28	\$2.74	\$1.33	\$0.86	\$0.62	\$7.27	\$0.60	\$0.44	\$0.11	\$0.46	\$0.02	\$0.83
31	Levodopa / decarboxylase inhibitor	\$15.17	\$1.43	\$1.66	\$0.63	\$0.36	\$9.91	\$0.26	\$0.40	\$0.09	\$0.19	\$0.02	\$0.22
32	Rabeprazole	\$14.95	\$1.46	\$0.40	\$1.03	\$0.39	\$8.71	\$0.17	\$1.15	\$0.0\$	\$0.77	\$0.01	\$0.81
33	Fluoxetine	\$14.64	\$2.62	\$0.97	\$0.85	\$0.63	\$7.66	\$0.33	\$0.25	\$0.09	\$0.30	\$0.01	\$0.93
34	Nabilone	\$14.47	\$1.97	\$0.84	\$0.02	\$1.07	\$9.26	\$0.62	\$0.33	<\$0.01	\$0.20	<\$0.01	\$0.14
35	Clopidogrel	\$14.46	\$1.03	\$1.32	\$0.55	\$0.41	\$9.39	\$0.42	\$0.49	\$0.10	\$0.32	\$0.01	\$0.41
36	Ondansetron	\$13.78	\$1.44	\$3.02	\$0.22	\$1.46	\$5.53	\$0.16	\$0.26	<\$0.01	\$0.02	\$0.01	\$1.67
37	Valproic acid	\$13.60	\$2.90	\$0.46	\$0.74	\$0.56	\$7.07	\$0.51	\$0.19	\$0.11	\$0.40	\$0.01	\$0.65
38	Ranitidine	\$13.21	\$1.84	\$0.56	\$0.76	\$0.33	\$6.99	\$0.36	\$0.72	\$0.14	\$0.63	\$0.01	\$0.89
39	Risperidone	\$13.06	\$2.31	\$0.38	\$0.83	\$0.71	\$6.84	\$0.61	\$0.24	\$0.10	\$0.34	\$0.01	\$0.68
40	Fentanyl	\$12.83	\$1.65	\$0.98	\$1.15	\$0.80	\$7.50	\$0.26	\$0.23	\$0.02	\$0.05	\$0.03	\$0.16
41	Methotrexate	\$12.43	\$1.84	\$1.99	\$0.61	\$0.39	\$5.89	\$0.32	\$0.37	\$0.07	\$0.18	\$0.02	\$0.74
42	Risedronic acid	\$12.32	\$0.19	\$1.48	\$0.29	\$0.07	\$9.47	\$0.20	\$0.35	\$0.04	\$0.09	<\$0.01	\$0.15
43	Gliclazide	\$11.88	\$0.60	\$1.14	\$0.48	\$0.52	\$6.58	\$0.32	\$0.63	\$0.17	\$0.42	\$0.02	\$1.00
44	Omeprazole	\$11.86	\$0.24	\$1.05	\$0.40	\$1.05	\$5.53	\$0.66	\$0.91	\$0.16	\$0.52	\$0.07	\$1.25
45	Glyceryl trinitrate	\$11.72	\$1.67	\$1.46	\$0.59	\$0.34	\$5.87	\$0.42	\$0.66	\$0.11	\$0.29	\$0.01	\$0.29
46	Mycophenolic acid	\$11.64	\$1.17	ı	\$0.84	\$0.54	\$8.11	\$0.13	\$0.07	<\$0.01	<\$0.01	\$0.06	\$0.71
47	Bupropion	\$11.63	\$1.89	\$0.98	\$0.55	\$0.51	\$6.37	\$0.28	\$0.24	\$0.04	\$0.17	\$0.02	\$0.56
48	Levonorgestrel/estrogen	\$10.54	\$0.46	\$0.05	\$0.16	\$0.13	\$8.91	\$0.05	\$0.02	\$0.04	\$0.10	<\$0.01	\$0.63
49	Irbesartan	\$10.11	\$0.36	\$1.85	\$0.37	\$0.32	\$6.34	\$0.13	\$0.27	\$0.05	\$0.08	<\$0.01	\$0.32
50	Telmisartan	\$9.65	\$0.63	\$1.33	\$0.25	\$0.16	\$6.49	\$0.17	\$0.23	\$0.13	\$0.06	\$0.01	\$0.19
Total		\$972.07	\$101.73	\$85.81	\$41.83	\$29.46	\$592.71	\$25.64	\$23.87	\$5.28	\$15.69	\$1.05	\$48.99
Shar	Share of all multi-source generic medicines	56%	54%	53%	54%	48%	58%	55%	52%	53%	49%	45%	53%
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### Appendix E: Top 50 Single-Source Non-Patented Medicines by Drug Cost, NPDUIS Public Drug Plans, '19 (\$thousand) 2018/

Rank	(medicinal ingredient)	Manufacturer	Total	BC	AB	SK	MB	NO	NB	SN	PE	NL	ΥT	NIHB
-	Novorapid (insulin aspart)	Novo Nordisk Canada Inc.	\$41,096	\$3,012	\$3,519	\$945	\$1,225	\$26,263	\$715	\$1,431	\$504	\$1,174	\$42	\$2,265
7	Fragmin (dalteparin sodium)	Pfizer Canada ULC	\$33,232	\$7,223	\$2,587	\$644	\$2,156	\$17,492	\$648	\$1,585	\$28	\$1	\$159	\$709
с	Levemir penfill (insulin detemir)	Novo Nordisk Canada Inc.	\$32,886	\$2,803	\$4,242	\$957	\$152	\$21,903	\$299	\$1,028	\$57	\$169	\$16	\$1,259
4	Aubagio (teriftunomide)	Sanofi Genzyme, a division of Sanofi- Aventis Canada Inc.	\$30,116	\$6,769	\$2,375	\$2,791	\$1,250	\$12,527	\$1,776	\$1,495	\$332	\$483	\$68	\$250
2	Zoladex LA (goserelin)	TerSera Therapeutics LLC	\$20,727	\$12	I	\$4	\$34	\$17,871	\$682	\$1,327	\$198	\$194	\$146	\$259
9	Aranesp HSA-free (darbepoetin alfa)	Amgen Canada Inc.	\$17,183	I	\$7,907	\$544	\$9	\$4,572	\$1,070	I	I	\$1,129	\$22	\$1,929
7	Mirena (levonorgestrel)	Bayer Inc.	\$16,688	\$1,638	\$205	\$403	\$261	\$11,147	\$150	\$48	\$22	\$159	I	\$2,656
œ	Innohep (tinzaparin sodium)	Leo Pharma Inc.	\$13,265	\$509	\$5,548	\$1,645	\$17	\$5,044	\$3	\$11	\$8	ı	I	\$479
6	Fucidin (fusidic acid)	Leo Pharma Inc.	\$12,964	\$942	\$452	\$266	\$219	\$10,004	\$119	\$174	\$20	\$138	\$1	\$629
10	Lemtrada (alemtuzumab)	Sanofi Genzyme, a division of Sanofi- Aventis Canada Inc.	\$12,717	\$3,725	\$3,172	\$2,102	\$184	\$2,945	\$74	\$131	\$138	I	I	\$247
11	Tresiba (insulin degludec)	Novo Nordisk Canada Inc.	\$11,606		\$683	\$328	\$238	\$9,477	\$203	ı	\$99	\$31	I	\$547
12	Lovenox with preservative (enoxaparin sodium)	Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.	\$10,371	\$209	\$1,140	\$422	\$40	\$7,507	\$402	\$64	\$23	\$195	\$1	\$368
13	NovoMix (insulin aspart / insulin aspart protamine)	Novo Nordisk Canada Inc.	\$8,312	\$309	I	I	I	\$8,002	I	I	I	I	I	\$1
14	Protopic (tacrolimus)	Leo Pharma Inc.	\$6,789	\$89	\$78	\$48	\$56	\$6,140	\$21	\$18	\$2	\$2	I	\$334
15	Remodulin (treprostinil)	United Therapeutics Corporation	\$6,346	\$1,864	I	ı	\$314	\$2,702	\$1,098	I	I	I	I	\$369
16	Premarin vaginal (conjugated estrogens)	Pfizer Canada ULC	\$6,179	\$980	\$1,007	\$396	\$132	\$2,903	\$170	\$141	\$49	\$131	\$12	\$256
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Rank	Trade name (medicinal ingredient)	Manufacturer	Total	BC	AB	SK	MB	NO	NB	NS	PE	N	ΥT	NIHB
17	Lamisil (terbinafine hydrochloride)	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.	\$5,313	I	\$333	\$119	<b>\$</b> 5	\$4,493	\$51	\$55	I	\$57	\$2	\$195
18	Trandate (labetalol hydrochloride)	Paladin Labs Inc.	\$4,826	\$620	\$417	\$266	\$194	\$2,315	\$185	\$330	\$66	\$127	\$1	\$304
19	Nucala (mepolizumab)	GlaxoSmithKline Inc.	\$3,966	ı	\$1,573	\$295	ı	\$1,814	\$142	ı	ı	I	I	\$141
20	Depo-Provera (medroxyprogesterone acetate)	Pfizer Canada ULC	\$3,662	\$312	\$27	\$232	\$121	\$1,688	\$91	\$17	\$13	\$111	I	\$1,050
21	Elmiron (pentosan polysulfate sodium)	Janssen Inc.	\$3,662	\$1,657	\$365	\$90	\$206	\$357	\$249	\$456	\$29	\$96	I	\$158
22	Elaprase (idursulfase)	Shire Human Genetic Therapies Inc.	\$3,407	I	I	I	I	\$3,407	I	I	I	I	I	I
23	Fluanxol Depot (flupentixol decanoate)	Lundbeck Canada Inc.	\$3,302	\$528	\$73	\$222	\$137	\$2,000	\$51	\$66	\$1	\$48	\$3	\$174
24	Pentoxifylline SR (pentoxifylline)	AA Pharma Inc.	\$3,164	\$374	\$326	\$103	\$48	\$2,067	\$31	\$32	\$9	\$93	\$3	\$79
25	Vimizim (elosulfase alfa)	<b>BioMarin International Ltd</b>	\$2,930	I	ı	\$36	ı	\$1,679	I	ī	ı	I	I	\$1,216
26	Tobradex (dexamethasone/ tobramycin)	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.	\$2,676	\$273	\$300	\$175	\$25	\$1,596	\$48	\$63	\$5	\$61	\$2	\$130
27	Qvar (beclomethasone dipropionate HFA)	Valeant Canada LP/ Valeant Canada S.E.C.	\$2,657	\$202	\$256	\$343	\$72	\$1,465	\$40	\$34	\$3	\$6	\$1	\$235
28	Solu-Medrol (methylprednisolone)	Pfizer Canada ULC	\$2,571	\$215	\$139	\$48	\$10	\$1,825	\$37	\$84	\$62	\$52	\$3	\$98
29	Ravicti (glycerol phenylbutyrate)	Horizon Pharma Ireland Ltd	\$2,427	\$169	I	\$250	I	\$1,598	I	I	I	I	I	\$410
30	Nadolol (nadolol)	AA Pharma Inc.	\$2,153	\$230	\$128	\$75	\$48	\$1,239	\$46	\$205	\$47	\$41	\$2	\$92
31	One Alpha (alfacalcidol)	Leo Pharma Inc.	\$2,097	\$664	\$52	\$129	\$5	\$66\$	\$58	\$55	<\$1	\$24	\$4	\$107
32	Megestrol (megestrol acetate)	AA Pharma Inc.	\$2,043	\$116	\$37	\$8	\$245	\$1,279	\$169	\$115	\$4	\$15	I	\$55
33	Cytomel (liothyronine)	Pfizer Canada ULC	\$1,941	\$1,227	\$473	\$3	\$77	\$6	\$49	\$32	ı	\$12	\$8	\$54
34	Firazyr (icatibant)	Shire Orphan Therapies LLC	\$1,936	\$181	\$103	\$135	\$226	\$1,012	\$82	\$41	ı	I	I	\$155
35	Zovirax (acyclovir)	Valeant Canada LP/ Valeant Canada S.E.C.	\$1,927	\$679	I	\$13	\$226	I	\$210	I	\$40	\$234	\$11	\$516
36	Lotriderm (clotrimazole/ betamethasone)	Merck Canada Inc.	\$1,906	I	\$720	\$386	\$4	I	\$133	\$294	ı	\$33	<\$1	\$337
37	Clopixol Depot (zuclopenthixol decanoate)	Lundbeck Canada Inc.	\$1,900	\$580	\$41	\$217	\$46	\$684	\$74	\$18	ı	\$69	\$1	\$170
												contir	ued on the	continued on the next page

Rank	Trade name (medicinal ingredient)	Manufacturer	Total	BC	AB	SK	MB	NO	NB	NS	Я	N	ΥT	NIHB
38	pdp-Amantadine Hydrochloride (amantadine hydrochloride)	Pendopharm, a division of Pharmascience Inc.	\$1,855	\$246	\$178	\$179	\$48	\$1,012	\$46	\$60	\$16	\$31	\$1	\$37
39	Lomotil (diphenoxylate hydrochloride / atropine sulfate)	Pfizer Canada ULC	\$1,760	\$131	\$331	\$93	\$19	\$1,038	\$42	\$41	\$2	\$56	\$1	\$6
40	Locacorten Vioform (flumethasone pivalate / clioquinol)	Paladin Labs Inc.	\$1,675	\$157	\$51	\$33	\$15	\$1,289	\$26	\$26	\$5	\$25	I	\$48
41	Cerezyme (imiglucerase)	Sanofi Genzyme, a division of Sanofi- Aventis Canada Inc.	\$1,617	I	I	\$82	\$590	I	I	I	I	\$433	I	\$512
42	Glucobay (acarbose)	Bayer Inc.	\$1,543	\$145	\$86	\$20	\$89	\$1,112	\$13	\$13	\$1	\$10	\$1	\$52
43	Thyrogen (thyrotropin alfa)	Sanofi Genzyme, a division of Sanofi- Aventis Canada Inc.	\$1,534	I	\$346	I	I	\$1,104	\$11	\$42	I	I	I	\$31
44	Linessa (desogestrel/ estrogen)	Aspen Pharmacare Canada Inc.	\$1,525	\$69	\$11	\$18	\$12	\$1,362	\$8	\$3	\$1	\$5	I	\$36
45	Efudex (fluorouracil)	Valeant Canada LP / Valeant Canada S.E.C.	\$1,439	\$132	\$190	\$55	\$16	\$961	\$32	\$30	\$9	\$7	\$2	\$5
46	Spinraza (nusinersen)	Biogen Canada Inc.	\$1,387	I	I	I	\$241	\$1,147	I	I	I	I	I	I
47	Cyclen (norgestimate / ethinyl estradiol)	Janssen Inc.	\$1,276	\$116	\$26	\$68	\$37	\$927	\$8	\$5	\$1	\$13	I	\$76
48	Mepron (atovaquone)	GlaxoSmithKline Inc.	\$1,243	\$20	\$398	\$42	\$56	\$586	\$28	ı	I	\$20	I	\$94
49	Thyroid (thyroid)	ERFA Canada 2012 Inc.	\$1,228	\$407	\$641	\$82	\$12	I	\$14	\$32	<\$1	\$1	I	\$38
50	Teva Nystatin (nystatin)	Teva Canada Ltd	\$1,226	I	I	I	I	\$1,226	I	I	I	\$5	I	I
Total	le		\$360,252	\$39,534	\$40,533	\$15,312	\$9,116	\$209,787	\$9,406	\$9,601	\$1,795	\$5,486	\$515	\$19,167
Sha	Share of all single-source non-patented medicines	patented medicines	89%	85%	93%	87%	85%	%06	88%	89%	%06	84%	93%	82%
Data	source: National Prescriptic	Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information System Database. Canadian Institute for Health Information.	on Svstem	Database.	Canadian I	nstitute for	Health Info	ormation.						

Ap

# pendix F: Top 50 Manufacturers by Drug Cost, NPDUIS blic Drug Plans, 2018/19 (\$million)

Rank	Company	Total	BC	AB	SK	MB	NO	NB	NS	PE	NL	ΥT	NIHB
~	Janssen Inc.	\$982.69	\$139.16	\$117.70	\$71.92	\$57.10	\$496.58	\$24.88	\$20.35	\$3.66	\$11.29	\$1.16	\$38.89
2	Gilead Sciences Canada Inc.	\$648.58	\$175.08	\$33.90	\$27.67	\$18.10	\$319.51	\$7.27	\$2.89	ı	\$4.53	\$2.21	\$57.42
ო	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.	\$538.56	\$30.18	\$44.45	\$11.15	\$16.62	\$395.60	\$15.73	\$8.09	\$0.82	\$6.64	\$0.51	\$8.76
4	Bayer Inc.	\$496.55	\$15.29	\$24.50	\$13.79	\$6.42	\$409.28	\$8.77	\$3.81	\$1.40	\$3.33	\$0.29	\$9.68
2	Apotex Inc.	\$473.18	\$44.85	\$30.82	\$15.89	\$13.57	\$314.10	\$11.34	\$7.58	\$1.86	\$7.11	\$0.50	\$25.57
9	Merck Canada Inc.	\$428.56	\$46.45	\$25.62	\$12.54	\$7.51	\$300.86	\$5.98	\$2.51	\$0.16	\$0.90	\$0.04	\$26.00
7	AbbVie Corporation	\$387.83	\$94.16	\$48.27	\$27.47	\$28.86	\$150.46	\$8.09	\$10.89	\$2.76	\$6.40	\$0.77	\$9.69
8	Teva Canada Ltd	\$343.33	\$33.25	\$30.32	\$16.73	\$13.15	\$209.04	\$8.10	\$7.52	\$1.67	\$6.28	\$0.49	\$16.79
6	Boehringer Ingelheim	\$310.26	\$24.94	\$30.35	\$7.74	\$6.16	\$218.90	\$5.37	\$5.14	\$1.09	\$1.82	\$0.18	\$8.59
10	GlaxoSmithKline Inc.	\$275.73	\$29.44	\$26.59	\$10.78	\$8.74	\$167.30	\$7.90	\$6.13	\$0.86	\$4.40	\$0.38	\$13.21
11	Sandoz Canada Inc.	\$262.87	\$26.00	\$24.12	\$11.81	\$6.40	\$166.47	\$5.65	\$6.41	\$1.14	\$3.97	\$0.39	\$10.50
12	Celgene Inc.	\$212.11	\$0.01	I	I	\$13.76	\$170.26	\$7.38	\$9.98	\$1.74	\$6.85	\$0.32	\$1.82
13	AstraZeneca Canada Inc.	\$211.73	\$19.66	\$24.29	\$8.06	\$5.18	\$140.38	\$2.26	\$3.37	\$0.43	\$1.16	\$0.16	\$6.76
14	Bristol-Myers Squibb Canada	\$207.35	\$23.38	\$20.90	\$7.07	\$6.21	\$138.52	\$3.32	\$3.20	\$0.53	\$0.85	\$0.16	\$3.21
15	Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.	\$205.39	\$18.88	\$19.29	\$11.83	\$3.23	\$125.70	\$3.46	\$3.70	\$0.56	\$1.08	\$0.07	\$17.60
16	Pfizer Canada ULC	\$203.94	\$25.43	\$12.88	\$6.75	\$9.54	\$127.39	\$4.68	\$6.57	\$0.40	\$2.58	\$0.33	\$7.40
17	Allergan Inc.	\$146.47	\$12.36	\$11.52	\$3.59	\$2.62	\$108.23	\$1.36	\$2.52	\$0.32	\$0.93	\$0.11	\$2.91
18	Immunex Corporation	\$145.59	\$30.96	\$19.67	\$8.39	\$12.60	\$57.14	\$3.55	\$5.02	\$0.62	\$1.15	\$0.31	\$6.18
19	Sanis Health Inc.	\$145.54	\$19.35	\$19.45	\$7.86	\$6.32	\$68.47	\$6.22	\$5.60	\$0.96	\$3.74	\$0.42	\$7.14
20	Pharmascience Inc.	\$138.45	\$16.10	\$10.60	\$7.84	\$4.84	\$79.64	\$3.24	\$3.76	\$0.73	\$3.02	\$0.15	\$8.54
21	Novo Nordisk Canada Inc.	\$128.96	\$10.31	\$14.80	\$3.41	\$2.95	\$78.87	\$2.40	\$5.74	\$0.96	\$3.33	\$0.16	\$6.05
22	Amgen Canada Inc.	\$117.52	\$3.10	\$14.14	\$1.43	\$0.30	\$92.35	\$1.46	\$0.37	\$0.03	\$1.30	\$0.0\$	\$2.98
23	Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd	\$115.01	\$23.01	\$14.34	\$6.31	\$7.74	\$49.94	\$2.21	\$3.59	\$0.49	\$1.79	\$0.26	\$5.32
24	Mylan Pharmaceuticals ULC	\$103.75	\$12.34	\$9.70	\$4.11	\$5.71	\$56.95	\$3.58	\$2.90	\$0.57	\$2.47	\$0.10	\$5.31
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Rank	Company	Total	BC	AB	SK	MB	NO	NB	NS	PE	N	ΥT	NIHB
25	Purdue Pharma	\$99.76	\$5.96	\$9.56	\$6.12	\$5.07	\$64.69	\$2.90	\$1.98	\$0.21	\$0.66	\$0.08	\$2.52
26	Eli Lilly Canada Inc.	\$98.03	\$13.78	\$6.27	\$6.09	\$4.93	\$46.63	\$4.11	\$3.67	\$1.61	\$4.35	\$0.25	\$6.34
27	Astellas Pharma Canada Inc.	\$96.68	\$0.09	\$2.70	\$2.60	\$6.02	\$75.38	\$3.44	\$2.07	\$0.38	\$1.21	\$0.14	\$2.63
28	Sivem Pharmaceuticals ULC	\$73.56	\$14.44	\$22.89	\$6.22	\$7.18	ı	\$4.23	\$6.87	\$2.12	\$2.41	I	\$7.19
29	Biogen Canada Inc.	\$72.64	\$13.95	\$12.64	\$7.99	\$7.72	\$20.85	\$3.85	\$1.96	\$0.24	\$2.11	\$0.32	\$1.00
30	ViiV Healthcare ULC	\$68.70	<\$0.01	ı	\$3.32	\$3.47	\$53.40	\$1.70	I	I	\$0.39	\$0.10	\$6.33
31	Shire Pharma Canada ULC	\$68.63	\$4.37	\$2.61	\$3.00	\$1.76	\$51.69	\$0.63	\$0.31	\$0.07	\$0.23	\$0.04	\$3.92
32	AA Pharma Inc.	\$64.62	\$12.96	\$4.94	\$3.62	\$2.24	\$31.68	\$2.01	\$1.94	\$0.41	\$1.50	\$0.07	\$3.25
33	Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd	\$61.80	\$14.47	\$0.87	\$2.26	\$1.40	\$38.35	\$1.15	\$0.24	\$0.08	\$0.23	\$0.02	\$2.72
34	Sanofi Genzyme, a division of Sanofi-Aventis Canada Inc.	\$61.59	\$10.49	\$5.89	\$5.63	\$3.57	\$29.33	\$1.86	\$1.90	\$0.47	\$0.92	\$0.07	\$1.45
35	Takeda Canada Inc.	\$56.57	\$18.03	\$6.66	\$7.53	\$3.89	\$16.82	\$1.28	\$1.47	\$0.02	\$0.34	<\$0.01	\$0.54
36	Valeant Canada LP / Valeant Canada S.E.C.	\$53.53	\$5.71	\$5.50	\$1.83	\$1.24	\$33.18	\$1.57	\$1.22	\$0.20	\$1.04	\$0.03	\$2.01
37	Taro Pharmaceuticals Inc.	\$50.92	\$3.57	\$2.56	\$1.84	\$1.76	\$35.46	\$0.83	\$1.20	\$0.28	\$0.80	\$0.04	\$2.59
38	Leo Pharma Inc.	\$49.61	\$3.05	\$7.19	\$2.87	\$0.38	\$32.10	\$0.43	\$0.33	\$0.04	\$0.41	\$0.03	\$2.77
39	BGP Pharma ULC	\$48.64	\$5.59	\$6.89	\$1.88	\$1.47	\$27.37	\$1.23	\$1.77	\$0.27	\$0.64	\$0.06	\$1.47
40	Auro Pharma Inc.	\$47.35	\$4.87	\$3.76	\$1.01	\$0.82	\$33.85	\$0.42	\$0.43	\$0.09	\$0.29	\$0.05	\$1.75
41	Alexion Pharma GmbH	\$46.47	I	\$6.82	I	\$1.66	\$35.83	\$0.47	I	\$0.55	I	I	\$1.14
42	UCB Canada Inc.	\$33.92	\$7.10	\$2.08	\$2.27	\$0.73	\$18.56	\$0.42	\$1.15	\$0.11	\$0.35	\$0.03	\$1.14
43	Mylan Specialty LP	\$32.15	\$1.10	\$0.80	\$0.99	\$0.32	\$27.24	\$0.18	\$0.12	<\$0.01	\$0.06	\$0.01	\$1.34
77	Mint Pharmaceuticals Inc.	\$28.20	\$3.52	\$3.11	\$1.29	\$0.65	\$16.61	\$0.32	\$0.77	\$0.15	\$0.22	\$0.15	\$1.41
45	Actavis Pharma Company	\$24.43	\$3.11	\$1.62	\$0.65	\$1.10	\$15.16	\$0.60	\$0.53	\$0.05	\$0.30	\$0.02	\$1.29
46	Paladin Labs Inc.	\$23.12	\$4.86	\$2.49	\$1.04	\$0.69	\$10.41	\$0.77	\$0.82	\$0.28	\$0.48	\$0.02	\$1.27
47	Servier Canada Inc.	\$21.50	\$0.69	\$3.75	\$1.03	\$0.73	\$13.38	\$0.29	\$0.37	\$0.0\$	\$0.21	\$0.01	\$0.99
48	EMD Serono, a division of EMD Inc. Canada	\$21.03	\$3.50	\$3.26	\$2.05	\$1.78	\$8.81	\$0.67	I	\$0.18	\$0.36	\$0.04	\$0.38
49	TerSera Therapeutics LLC	\$20.73	\$0.01	I	<\$0.01	\$0.03	\$17.87	\$0.68	\$1.33	\$0.20	\$0.19	\$0.15	\$0.26
50	Celltrion Healthcare Co., Ltd	\$20.22	\$6.29	\$1.93	\$0.46	\$2.33	\$8.47	\$0.12	\$0.06	\$0.02	\$0.04	\$0.10	\$0.39
Total		\$8,574.30	\$1,035.18	8 \$755.01	\$377.72	\$326.56	\$5,205.09	\$190.36	\$170.15	\$31.84	\$106.65	\$11.34	\$364.40
Data	Data source: National Prescription Drug Utilization Information		stem Datab	System Database Canadian Institute for Health Information	an Institute	for Health I	nformation						