Generic Drug Spending in Alberta

Name and Definition

Full Name	Generic drug spending in Alberta: Community dispensed percentage of generic prescription drugs in Alberta
Short Name	Generic Drug Spending in Alberta
Definition	The estimated value of generic manufactured prescription drugs dispensed from Alberta retail pharmacies expressed as a proportion of the total (generic and brand manufactured) estimated value of manufactured drugs dispensed from Alberta retail pharmacies in a calendar year.
Domain	Health System Sustainability
Dimension	

Fiscal Efficiencies	**Health Workforce**	**Information Management / Information Technology**
Yes	No	No

Health Technologies		
No		

Category of Measure	Strategic
Type of Measure	Process Measure
Other Comments / Notes	

Context

Business Context	Health and Wellness 2012-15 Ministry Business Plan.
Rationale	An affordability measure for Albertans is the percent of total prescription drugs dispensed in Community Pharmacies. Essentially, prescription drugs become more affordable as a larger share of Albertans' drug purchases are generic drugs.
Notes for Interpretation	Time period of results reported is the calendar year.
Organizational Strategy	Generic drugs are significantly less expensive than the Brand equivalents. The Government continues to implement changes to reduce the costs of prescription drugs for all Albertans - initiatives like limiting the price of generics provide a direct cost reduction.
Benchmark Comparisons	None
Cited References	Health and Wellness 2012-15 Business Plan

Technical Specifications

Metric	Percent
Preferred Display Format	99.9%
Numerator	The estimated value of generic manufactured prescription drugs dispensed from retail pharmacies in Alberta.
Inclusion Criteria for Numerator	Markups and professional fees.
Exclusion Criteria for Numerator	
Data Source(s) for Numerator	IMS Brogan, Canadian CompuScript; Pharmaceutical Funding and Guidance Branch.
Refresh Rate for Numerator	Monthly
Data Steward for Numerator	IMS Brogan
Denominator	The total (generic and brand manufactured) estimated value of manufactured drugs dispensed from retail pharmacies in Alberta.

Performance Measure Definition

Alberta Health

Inclusion Criteria for Denominator	Markups and professional fees.
Exclusion Criteria for Denominator	
Data Source(s) for Denominator	IMS Brogan, Canadian CompuScript; Pharmaceutical Funding and Guidance Branch.
Refresh Rate for Denominator	Monthly
Data Steward for Denominator	IMS Brogan
Technical Notes	The Canadian CompuScript Audit measures the number of prescriptions dispensed by Canadian retail pharmacies. Product information is presented according to therapeutic class, and for each product the following data elements are collected: manufacturer, form, strength, new vs. refill prescription, prescription size and price, transaction location, transaction date, MD number (if available), third-party payer (if available), and authorized repeats. The CompuScript sample is drawn from IMS Brogan's panel of about 8,700 retail pharmacies in Canada. The data is collected monthly from a panel of more than 5,600 drug stores distributed proportionately within each of the strata and across the various chain affiliations. The methodology changes in 2005 have no impact on the data. This is due to the introduction of the new CompuScript Next Generation (G2) in January 2008 with three years of restated back data (January 2005 forward) maintaining accurate trending.
Calculation	(The estimated value of generic manufactured prescription drugs dispensed from Alberta retail pharmacies/The total (generic and brand manufactured) estimated value of manufactured drugs dispensed from Alberta retail pharmacies) X 100
Relationship to Other Indicators	None

Level of Reporting	**National**	No	**Provincial**	Yes	**Zone**	No	**Site**	No
Reporting Notes								
Frequency of Reporting	**Annually**	Yes	**Quarterly**	No	**Monthly**	No	**Other**	No

Other Reporting Frequency	
Limitations	For totals of generics and totals of brand manufactured drugs, the sampling error for Alberta is around +/-3% to +/-5% for Total Brand and +/- 3% to +/- 5% for Total Generics. On an individual product basis, the majority of brand products (top 300) will have a sampling error of +/-10% to +/-15%, and the majority of generic products (top 300) will have a sampling error of +/-10% to +/-15%.

Planning Documents

Reference Documents

Name	Business Planning Document URL
Health and Wellness 2012-15 Business Plan	http://www.finance.alberta.ca/publications/budget/budget2012/health-wellness.pdf