



22 December 2016

Mr. Simon Kennedy, Deputy Minister
Health Canada
70 Colombine Driveway
Tunney's Pasture, Room 1526B
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0K9

simon.kennedy@hc-sc.gc.ca

Information Request: IR0273

Dear Mr. Kennedy:

As you are likely aware, the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) provides independent analysis to the Senate and to the House of Commons about the nation's finances and the economy, the estimates of the government, and the cost of programs, legislation, and policies. In carrying out its mandate, the PBO often requires access to information held by government departments. When such information is needed, the PBO makes a request to the department holding the information.

The PBO is currently undertaking an analysis pursuant to section 79.2(c) of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, which mandates the PBO to undertake research on the estimates for any Senate or House of Commons committee mandated to consider the estimates of the government.

In pursuing this work, the PBO would ask that, pursuant to section 79.3 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, you provide access to the following information:

- The Standing Committee on Health (HESA) has requested the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) to prepare an estimate of the financial cost of a National Pharmacare Program. On 13 December 2016, PBO presented a Terms of Reference to the Committee, citing the need for large data purchases. In order to reduce public expenses, it is the Committee's wish to ascertain whether the data in question has already been purchased by Health Canada, and whether or not it is accessible to the PBO.
- Referring to the template table, PBO is asking if Health Canada currently has the data, or access to the data provided by QuintilesIMS, providing the total cost of prescriptions (inclusive of mark-ups, fees, etc...), total number of prescriptions, total number of units (for example, pills) and a brand-name or generic identifier for prescriptions filled at Canadian pharmacies by age-group,

gender, payer, province, and drug identification number (DIN). Finally, the PBO asks that Health Canada identify the year(s) for which this data is available.

For clarification, 'payer' refers to the principal insurer providing pharmaceutical insurance: public, private or none, and 'principal' refers to the payer paying the greatest portion of the total cost.

DIN	AGE	GENDER	PROVINCE	PAYER	TOTAL_COST	N_PRESCRIPTIONS	N_UNITS	BRAND
DIN 1	age group 1	M	MB	PUBLIC	\$	#	#	Y
DIN 1	age group 1	M	MB	PRIVATE	\$	#	#	Y
DIN 1	age group 1	M	MB	NONE	\$	#	#	Y
DIN 1	age group 1	F	MB	PUBLIC	\$	#	#	Y
DIN 1	age group 1	F	MB	PRIVATE	\$	#	#	Y
DIN 1	age group 1	F	MB	NONE	\$	#	#	Y
DIN 1	age group 2	M	MB	PUBLIC	\$	#	#	Y
DIN 1	age group 2	M	MB	PRIVATE	\$	#	#	Y
DIN 1	age group 2	M	MB	NONE	\$	#	#	Y
DIN 1	age group 2	F	MB	PUBLIC	\$	#	#	Y
DIN 1	age group 2	F	MB	PRIVATE	\$	#	#	Y
DIN 1	age group 2	F	MB	NONE	\$	#	#	Y
DIN 2	age group 1	M	MB	PUBLIC	\$	#	#	N
DIN 2	age group 1	M	MB	PRIVATE	\$	#	#	N
DIN 2	age group 1	M	MB	NONE	\$	#	#	N
DIN 2	age group 1	F	MB	PUBLIC	\$	#	#	N
DIN 2	age group 1	F	MB	PRIVATE	\$	#	#	N
DIN 2	age group 1	F	MB	NONE	\$	#	#	N
...
DIN 1	age group 1	M	SK	PUBLIC	\$	#	#	Y
DIN 1	age group 1	M	SK	PRIVATE	\$	#	#	Y
DIN 1	age group 1	M	SK	NONE	\$	#	#	Y
...
...

The PBO also asks that Health Canada identify any conditions or restrictions on providing access to the data, or sharing prepared tables, with the PBO.

We would appreciate that you provide access to this information by 18 January 2017. If we do not hear back from you by that date, we may consider your non-response a deemed refusal and, accordingly, report it to our named committees as instructed.


Attached is a reply form. It too should be filled out and returned by 18 January 2017, whether or not you provide access to the requested information. The details contained in the reply form will assist us in preparing the PBO annual report.

Your response letter will be posted on the PBO website and, therefore, it should not be marked "confidential". Could you please attach the requested information separately. If this information is confidential, please clearly mark it as such, either on the electronic spreadsheet or the hard copy version.

Should you or your staff have any questions about this information request, the analyst responsible, Carleigh Malanik can be contacted directly at carleigh.malanik@parl.gc.ca, 613-853-8763.

I want to thank you for your assistance in this matter. Providing timely and effective analysis to the Senate and House of Commons is the PBO's primary objective. The degree to which this is possible depends, to a large extent, on free and timely access to quality information held by government departments. In doing so, you are assisting us in better serving the Senate, the House of Commons, and their members.

Yours sincerely,


Jean-Denis Fréchette
Parliamentary Budget Officer

c.c.: Katharine Rechico, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet,
Privy Council Office, Liaison Secretariat for Macroeconomic Policy

Attachment: Reply form for IR0273



Reply Form / Formulaire de réponse

22 December 2016 / 22 décembre 2016

Health Canada / Santé Canada

1. Information request No.: / N° de la demande d'information :	IR0273
2. Response required by: / Réponse demandée d'ici le :	18 January 2017 / 18 janvier 2017
3. Contact: / Personne-ressource :	Carleigh Malanik, carleigh.malanik@parl.gc.ca , 613-853-8763
4. Information requested: /	<p>The Standing Committee on Health (HESA) has requested the Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO) to prepare an estimate of the financial cost of a National Pharmacare Program. On 13 December 2016, PBO presented a Terms of Reference to the Committee, citing the need for large data purchases. In order to reduce public expenses, it is the Committee's wish to ascertain whether the data in question has already been purchased by Health Canada, and whether or not it is accessible to the PBO.</p> <p>Referring to the template table below, PBO is asking if Health Canada currently has the data, or access to the data provided by QuintilesIMS, providing the total cost of prescriptions (inclusive of mark-ups, fees, etc...), total number of prescriptions, total number of units (for example, pills) and a brand-name or generic identifier for prescriptions filled at Canadian pharmacies by age-group, gender, payer, province, and drug identification number (DIN). Finally, the PBO asks that Health Canada identify the year(s) for which this data is available.</p> <p>For clarification, 'payer' refers to the principal insurer providing pharmaceutical insurance: public, private or none, and 'principal' refers to the payer paying the greatest portion of the total cost.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table inserted in letter. <p>The PBO also asks that Health Canada identify any conditions or restrictions on providing access to the data, or sharing prepared tables, with the PBO.</p>
Information demandée :	<p>Le Comité permanent de la santé (HESA) a demandé au directeur parlementaire du budget (DPB) de préparer une évaluation des coûts financiers qu'entraînerait un Programme national d'assurance-médicaments. Le 13 décembre 2016, le DPB a présenté au Comité un cadre de référence dans lequel il citait la nécessité de faire l'acquisition de vastes données. Dans le but de réduire les dépenses publiques, le Comité tient à vérifier si Santé Canada a déjà acheté les données et, le cas échéant, il souhaite également savoir si le DPB peut avoir accès à ces données.</p> <p>Les données recherchées par le DPB sont celles présentées dans le tableau ci dessous. Elles proviennent de QuintilesIMS et comprennent le prix total des ordonnances (incluant la majoration, les frais, etc.), le nombre total d'ordonnances, le nombre total d'unités (par exemple, des pilules) et un nom de marque ou un identifiant générique pour les ordonnances remplis dans les pharmacies canadiennes par groupe d'âge, sexe, payeur, province et numéro d'identification du médicament (DIN). Pour être précis, « payeur » signifie l'assureur principal fournissant l'assurance pharmaceutique : les termes public,</p>

	privé ou non et principal font référence au payeur qui assume la majeure partie du coût total. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tableau inséré dans la letter. Le DPB demande aussi à Santé Canada d'indiquer toute condition ou restriction qui l'empêcherait de donner au DPB un accès aux données ou de lui transmettre les tableaux préparés.			
5. Information requested: / Information demandée :	<input type="checkbox"/> Provided / Communiquée	Go to the 7 th question / Passez à la 7 ^e question	<input type="checkbox"/> Not provided / Non communiquée	Go to the next question. / Passé à la question suivante.
6. If the information requested is not provided, please explain: / Si l'information n'est pas communiquée, veuillez en indiquer la raison :	<input type="checkbox"/> It is personal information "the disclosure of which is restricted under section 19 of the Access to Information Act or any provision set out in Schedule II to that Act." <i>Parliament of Canada Act, s. 79.3(2)(a).</i> / Il s'agit de renseignements personnels « dont la communication est restreinte en vertu de l'article 19 de la <i>Loi sur l'accès à l'information</i> ou d'une disposition figurant à l'annexe II de cette loi ». <i>Loi sur le Parlement du Canada, al. 79.3(2)a.</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> It is "contained in a confidence of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada described in subsection 69(1) of that Act and is not contained in any other record, within the meaning of section 3 of that Act." <i>Parliament of Canada Act, s. 79.3(2)(b).</i> / Les données sont « contenues dans les documents confidentiels du Conseil privé de la Reine pour le Canada visés au paragraphe 69(1) de cette loi » et elles ne sont pas contenues dans d'autres documents au sens de l'article 3 de cette loi. <i>Loi sur le Parlement du Canada, al. 79.3(2)b.</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> It is not "financial or economic" data. <i>Parliament of Canada Act, s. 79.3(1).</i> / Il ne s'agit pas de données « financières ou économiques ». <i>Loi sur le Parlement du Canada, par. 79.3(1).</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> It is not "data." <i>Parliament of Canada Act, s. 79.3(1).</i> / Il ne s'agit pas de « données ». <i>Loi sur le Parlement du Canada, par. 79.3(1).</i>		

