

**Prescription Drug Access/Affordability and Pharmacare  
Final Questionnaire**

We are asking people today about some different topics related to health care here in Canada.

1. Approximately how many times in the last 12 months have you or anyone in your household:

[Randomize Rows:]

Visited a family doctor or walk-in clinic  
Visited an emergency department or urgent care centre  
Been admitted to a hospital  
Received a diagnostic test (such as a blood test, x-ray or CT scan etc.)  
Received a prescription for medicine

[Responses:]

Zero, no one in household in past year  
Once  
Two times  
Three to five times  
Six to ten times  
Ten or more times

2. Thinking about prescription medicines that you or others in your household may need over the course of the year, about how much of the total cost of those prescriptions would you have to pay yourselves, and how much would be paid for by a government program or a private insurance plan?

(Please take into account any re-imbursments you might get and indicate how much of the total cost you/your household would end up paying.)

[Display for those who indicated they received no prescriptions this past year at Q1 above:]  
(Even if you don't use prescription medicines or do so only rarely, please answer the question to the best of your knowledge supposing you did need one or more prescriptions this year.)

Are prescription drugs in your household:

Always paid by you/yourselves with no insurance/ government coverage  
Mostly paid by you/yourselves with some insurance/ government coverage  
About 50:50 (you pay roughly half)  
Mostly paid by insurance/ government with some paid by your household  
Always paid by insurance/ government with nothing paid by your household in the end  
(Cannot say/Do not know)

[Ask Q3a of those who have received at least 1 prescription at Q1 above:]

3a. Thinking of prescriptions filled over the past year, approximately what was the total dollar amount your household has had to pay yourselves? (This would be after any re-imbusement you might get – the total amount you end up paying.)

\$0

Some but less than \$100

Between \$100 and \$500

Between \$500 and \$1,000

Between \$1,000 and \$3,000

Over \$3,000

[Everyone:]

3b. Over the past year, has your household's prescription drug coverage changed?

Yes, I/we have **gained more** prescription drug coverage that I/we did not have before

Yes, I/we have **lost** prescription drug coverage that I/we had before

No, my/our prescription drug coverage has **not changed** this past year

Don't know/Not sure

4. In the past 12 months, did you/someone in your household do any of the following?

[List items in this order:]

Decide **to NOT fill** a prescription for medicine because of the cost

Decide **to NOT renew** a prescription because of the cost

Do anything to make a prescription **last longer** (such as skip doses/split pills/etc) because of the cost

Experience **financial difficulty** because of the cost of prescription medicines (such as needing to borrow the money, or cut back on something else)

**Worry** about how you, or members of your family, might be able to afford the prescription drugs you need

[Responses]

Yes, have done that

No, have not

Not applicable

5. Thinking specifically of the issue of the cost of prescription drugs,

a) Do you have any friends or family members who cannot afford their prescription medications and have had to skip or delay renewing prescriptions as a result?

Yes

No

b) Do you have any friends or family members who have financial difficulty paying for their prescription medicines (i.e. have to borrow money or go without other things)?

Yes

No

6. Thinking of your future, what are your own overall expectations about your ability to afford prescription drugs when you are 10 years older than you are now? Would you say you are:

Very worried about being able to afford drugs down the road

Somewhat worried

Fairly confident

Very confident you will always be able to pay for your prescription drugs (either yourself or your insurance)

### The Plan and the Policy Angles

Currently in Canada there is no national universal coverage program for prescription medicine. Drug coverage in Canada varies by province, and is a blend of public and private insurance plans. Many Canadians have little or no drug insurance and therefore pay for their own prescriptions. We wanted to ask people their views on this set-up, and on possible new policies that could be put in place.

7. First, how much of a priority do you think this issue is for Canada -- improving prescription drug access and affordability? Would you say this is a:

Very high priority

High priority

Lower priority

Very low priority

[Display for all:]

One suggestion is for a universal "pharmacare" program where medically necessary prescription drugs would basically be treated like other health care services provided under Canadian Medicare.

Here's a bit of background:

Several national inquiries into this issue have made the case that a universal prescription drug program would save money and lives since Canada would be able to negotiate better drug prices and ensure that everyone can afford to take the medicine they need.

Recently, the federal government's Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare estimated that such a program would save Canadian households and employers \$5 billion more than it would cost government to run. They also estimated that such a program would generate an additional \$1 billion in annual health care savings because more people would have access to necessary medicines.

The federal government has said that it is committed to working with the provinces on implementing such a universal public drug plan – that is, implementing National Pharmacare.

[New screen]

8. Overall, do you personally support or oppose the concept of having “pharmacare” in Canada, providing universal access to prescription drugs?

Strongly Support

Moderately Support

Moderately Oppose

Strongly Oppose

9a. Thinking for a moment about the actual implementation of a National Pharmacare program....

It has been recommended universal, public drug coverage begin immediately with 100 to 200 types of medication that Canadians most commonly need for a range of medical conditions (arthritis, infections, heart disease, ulcers etc.). Public coverage of all other necessary medications would be phased in over a few years.

How do you think Canada should proceed:

[Response options. This order]

That way, **starting immediately with the most commonly needed medicines** and then expanding to cover others over a few years

**Cover ALL necessary medications from the beginning**, even if doing so will delay implementation a few years

Start with the most common medications and **do not expand coverage beyond those drugs** (people would still have to pay for other medicines)

**Do not proceed** with a National Pharmacare program at all

9b. It has been recommended that provinces run the public drug plans under National Pharmacare and that the federal government help pay for provincial drug plans that meet national standards under the program. Would you personally support or oppose your provincial government participating in such a program?

Strongly Support

Moderately Support

Moderately Oppose

Strongly Oppose

10. Here are some statements that might be made about this issue of prescription drugs and how they are or should be paid for in Canada. For each statement, please indicate whether you personally agree or disagree.

[Randomize Rows:]

Overall the current system is working well enough and doesn't need to be changed

We simply can't afford universal drug coverage

It would be more efficient if there is one single system for drug coverage

Having free prescription drugs will lead to abuse

It only makes sense that medicine should be part of medicare

Every Canadian – regardless of income – should have access to necessary prescription medicine

There are lots of other higher priority issues facing the health care system right now

Health care is under provincial jurisdiction, so Canada should not have national standards for pharmacare programs

[Responses]

Strongly Agree

Moderately Agree

Moderately Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Q11. As noted, recommendations call for the federal government to cover the costs of setting up a National Pharmacare program and to help the provinces pay for their respective drug plans. Even though studies show it would save Canada money overall due to lower drug costs, setting up and implementing the program itself would cost the federal government money.

Would you yourself support or oppose National Pharmacare being brought in if that funding were to come from:

[Randomize Rows:]

Increasing the federal deficit and debt

A 1% increase in the middle-class tax bracket

A wealth tax on incomes over \$250,000

Increasing the corporate tax rate

Strongly support

Moderately Support

Moderately Oppose

Strongly Oppose

12. Thinking about this whole idea of moving to a new universal pharmacare program versus keeping things as they are, which of the following two broad options best reflects your own view of this?

[Rotate statements:]

Canada should move to a National Pharmacare program. Other countries with universal medicare have universal pharmacare. Royal commissions have recommended it, and studies have shown it would save us billions of dollars through bulk buying our drugs. And this way, everyone can afford the prescription drugs they need.

OR

Canada should keep things as they are, with individuals and companies buying their own drug insurance, and some programs to help the very poor and elderly. There is no need to make a big change like this. And reducing the amount Canadians spend on medicine will reduce the amount that the pharmaceutical companies spend on research to find new cures.

[Ask those choosing “keep things as they are” above:]

13. And, do you favour keeping things as they are now, or would you perhaps support some changes to cover more people -- but not a full pharmacare program?

Keep things as they are  
Support some changes

Awareness/Knowledge

14. How do you think Canada’s prescription drug costs (regardless of who is paying) compare to other countries like Canada? Do you think Canada pays:

Way less for prescription drugs than other countries  
Less  
About the same  
More  
Way more than other countries

15. What would be your estimate of how many Canadians, if any:

[Keep rows in this order:]

Are not covered by a drug insurance plan

Have financial difficulty paying for their prescriptions

Don’t take their medical prescriptions properly (or at all) because they can’t afford to

[Responses]

Almost none – say, less than 1%

Very few – say, less than 3%

Less than 5%

5-10%

10-20%

20-30%

30-40%

40-50%

Over 50%

### Attitudes

16. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

[Randomize Rows:]

No matter what the research shows, a National Pharmacare plan will not end up saving money

Most people who can't pay for medicine probably waste their money on other things instead

It's simply not right that some Canadians have to struggle to pay for medicine they need

Canada needs a national approach to issues like this, rather than leaving the provinces on their own

High drug prices are needed to ensure the pharmaceutical companies can keep researching and inventing new life-saving drugs

Most people have some kind of drug coverage through their employer or their own private insurance policy, so it's unnecessary to create a new universal plan for everyone

Strongly Agree

Moderately Agree

Moderately Disagree

Strongly Disagree

### Concept Re-visit

17. We've been discussing issues concerning access and affordability of prescription drugs. In closing, all things considered, do you yourself support or oppose adding a universal, public pharmacare program to the Canadian Medicare system?

Strongly Support

Moderately Support

Moderately Oppose

Strongly Oppose

**[AJ: Had to add]**

**Household Demos**

Just wrapping up now, we have a few questions for our classification purposes.

**D1.**

**Base=All**

**[Single-choice]**

How many people currently live in your household -- including yourself?

You live alone

Two/One other person

Three people

Four people

Five or more people in household

**D2.**

**Base=All**

**[Single-choice]**

What is your current marital status? Are you:

Single/Never married

Married

Common-law/Living as married

Separated/Divorced

Widowed

**D3.**

**Base=All**

**[Multi-choice]**

Do you have children?

No, no children [EXCLUSIVE]

Yes, have a child/children under 18

Yes, have a child/children over 18

**D4.**

**Base=All**

**[Single-choice]**

Are you currently working or studying as a student at a post-secondary institution?

Working/studying full-time

Working/studying part-time

Not working/studying

Retired



Socio-demographic Info [profiled]

Region/sub-region

Gender

Age

Education

HH income

Federal Party Support 2019