



PREPARED BY THE MINORITY STAFF OF THE COMMITTEES ON GOVERNMENT REFORM  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SEPTEMBER 2004

---

## Canadian and Federal Government Prices for Popular Prescription Drugs

---

Numerous analyses have found that prices for prescription drugs in Canada and prices paid by the federal government for prescription drugs are far lower than prescription drug prices available with the new Medicare drug cards. The following table contains detailed information on the Canadian prices<sup>1</sup> and the prices paid by the federal government<sup>2</sup> for each of the top-selling brand name drugs for seniors.

<b>Canadian and Federal Government Prices For Popular Prescription Drugs</b>			
<b>Drug</b>	<b>Dosage and Form</b>	<b>Canadian Cost (\$US)</b>	<b>Federal Government Cost</b>
Aricept	10 mg, 30 cap	\$132.89	\$100.07
Celebrex	200 mg, 30 tab	\$41.43	\$28.60
Fosamax	70 mg, 4 tab	\$41.43	\$40.10
Lipitor	10 mg, 30 tab	\$50.81	\$40.55
Nexium	20 mg, 30 tab	\$68.01	\$79.62
Norvasc	5 mg, 30 tab	\$41.43	\$24.52
Plavix	75 mg, 30 tab	\$72.70	\$99.66
Prevacid	30 mg, 30 tab	\$64.88	\$70.85
Protonix	40 mg, 30 tab	\$62.54	\$26.83
Zocor	40 mg, 30 tab	\$67.23	\$69.27
<b>Total for Ten Drugs</b>		<b>\$643.34</b>	<b>\$580.07</b>

---

<sup>1</sup> These prices reflect the prices that would be paid by a typical, uninsured senior in Canada for each of the drugs. Prices were obtained from a government survey of Canadian pharmacies in September 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Federal Supply Schedule prices were downloaded from the website of the VA Office of Pharmacy Benefit Management on Sept. 24, 2004. VA, Office of Pharmacy Benefit Management, Drug and Pharmaceutical Prices (Sept. 2004) (online at <http://www.vapbm.org/PBM/prices.htm>).