



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

Health Data Nova Scotia

PHARM Data Dictionary

Seniors Pharmacare

&

Community Services Pharmacare

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Contents

SUMMARY OF THE PHARM DATASETS	3
DATASET DETAILS	4
DEFINITIONS	5
EXCLUDED ITEMS FROM SENIOR'S PHARMACARE	6
VARIABLES IN THE PHARM DATASETS.....	7
AGE.....	7
AMOUNT APPROVED	8
ANATOMICAL THERAPEUTIC CLASS	9
AMOUNT CLAIMED.....	10
CLAIM TYPE	11
COMPOUND INDICATOR	12
AMOUNT OF COPAY.....	13
DAYS SUPPLY.....	14
PHYSICIAN COUNTY	15
DRUG ID NUMBER	16
DISPENSING FEE.....	17
DATE OF BIRTH	18
PROVIDER ID.....	19
PROVIDER TYPE	20
DRUG COST	21
GENERIC DRUG INDICATOR	22
MAX ALLOWABLE COST.....	23
MARKUP PAID	24
HEALTH CARE NUMBER	25
ORIGINAL / REPEAT	26
AMOUNT PAID	27
PAYEE TYPE.....	28
PATIENT COUNTY	29
PHARMACY ID	30
PRESCRIPTION DATE	31
PROVINCIAL MEDICAL BOARD NUMBER.....	32
POSTAL CODE.....	33
PROGRAM CODE	34
QUANTITY DISPENSED.....	35
SEX.....	36
DISCONTINUED VARIABLES.....	37
ADJUSTMENT CODE	37
DRUG CLASS	38
DRUG TYPE	39
GAR INDICATOR	40

GIS INDICATOR.....41
REFILLS ALLOWED42
SOURCE OF CLAIM.....43
TRIAL DIN44
YEAR OF BIRTH45

Summary of the PHARM Datasets

- Purpose:** Recording the costs and drug details behind filled prescriptions
- Data Years:** Fiscal 1989 – 2015 (April 1- March 31)
- Source Agency:** Medavie Blue Cross
- Database Contact:** Jordan Farrell – 902.494.3688 – jordan.farrell@nshealth.ca
- Type:** Annual administrative records
- Target Population:** The *Senior's Pharmacare* prescriptions database contains all records for the population of Nova Scotia receiving Pharmacare benefits. All individuals in the database are 65 years of age and older.

The *Community Services Pharmacare* database contains records for individuals in various provincial pharmacare assistance programs. Each Community Services Pharmacare program has its own eligibility requirements, meaning prescriptions recorded in this database are only for specific qualifying individuals.

Security & Access: [Apply for access](#)

Legality: Custodian: [Department of Health and Wellness](#)
Use of data for research purposes must be [PHIA](#) and [PIPEDA](#) Compliant

Variable Summary:

- Individual demographic information (e.g. birth date, sex, postal code)
- Drug/Prescription information (din number, generic number, quantity dispensed)
- Billing Information & Payment Responsibility (e.g. dispensary fees, co-pay, markup)
- 32 variables

Dataset Details

The datasets are named such that *nn* represents the last two digits of the fiscal year the dataset records. E.g. PHARM14 contains senior's pharmacare information for the fiscal year 2014.

PHARM nn

The Senior's Pharmacare (PHARM) datasets contain administrative records for seniors' (65 years of age and older) prescriptions in Nova Scotia. Each observation represents a prescription filled, not a person. Because of this, a unique prescription record is identified by an individual's encrypted health care number (*msi*), drug id number (*din*) and prescription date (*rxdate*).

The data are compiled annually for each fiscal year, and is not cumulative between years.

The Community Services Pharmacare (CSPHARM) database is a separate dataset that contains information about pharmaceutical prescriptions paid for by the provincial government to beneficiaries on provincial income assistance programs. All individuals in that database are under the age of 65.

Definitions

SAS Date Format:

Variables representing dates are stored in the SAS date format. This format is a value that represents the number of days between January 1, 1960, and the specified date. Dates before January 1, 1960, are negative numbers; dates after are positive numbers. SAS dates account for all leap year days, and can reliably tell you what day of the week a particular day was going back to Sept. 1752.

SAS dates can be formatted by HDNS to appear as human-readable dates for research projects.

Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) Classification System:

The Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) Classification System is used for the classification of drugs. It is controlled by the WHO Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology (WHOCC).

In the ATC classification system, the active substances are divided into different groups according to the organ or system on which they act and their therapeutic, pharmacological and chemical properties. Drugs are classified in groups at five different levels. The drugs are divided into fourteen main groups (1st level), with pharmacological/therapeutic subgroups (2nd level). The 3rd and 4th levels are chemical/pharmacological/therapeutic subgroups and the 5th level is the chemical substance. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th levels are often used to identify pharmacological subgroups when that is considered more appropriate than therapeutic or chemical subgroups. There are 14 main groups.

Each first-level ATC code stands for a pharmaceutically used substance, or a combination of substances, in a single indication (or use). Therefore one drug can have more than one code.

Drug Identification Number (DIN):

A Drug Identification Number (DIN) is a unique, computer-generated eight digit number assigned by Health Canada to a drug product prior to being marketed in Canada. It uniquely identifies all drug products sold in a dosage form in Canada and is located on the label of prescription and over-the-counter drug products that have been evaluated and authorized for sale in Canada.

A DIN uniquely identifies the following product characteristics: manufacturer; product name; active ingredient(s); strength(s) of active ingredient(s); pharmaceutical form. A DIN lets the user know that the product has undergone and passed a review of its formulation, labeling and instructions for use. A drug product sold in Canada without a DIN is not in compliance with Canadian law.

Excluded Items from Senior's Pharmacare

Exclusions under the Pharmacare Programs include but are not limited to:

- Prescriptions filled outside Nova Scotia;
- Proprietary medicines and household remedies;
- Natural health products;
- Nonprescription analgesics, vitamins, mouth preparations, throat preparations, nasal preparations, laxatives, antacids and cough and cold preparations;
- Artificial sweetening agents;
- Dietary supplements and food products;
- Soaps, cleansers and shampoos, medicated or otherwise;
- Supportive or physical aids/devices, mechanical or otherwise;
- Prescription accessories, convalescent aids or other non-drug items of a similar nature;
- Cosmetic, health and beauty aids;
- Blood derivatives (Immune Serum Globulin for prophylaxis against infectious hepatitis or measles for treatment of immune deficiency disease is available from Public Health);
- Vaccines and sera (most are available from Public Health);
- Smoking cessation therapies;
- Anti-obesity therapies;
- Erectile dysfunction therapies;
- Infertility therapies;
- Antihistamines;
- Therapies for environmental illness; and
- Drug products identified by trade names deemed to be inappropriate, confusing and/or misleading.

Variables in the PHARM Datasets

Age

Variable Name	age
Label	Patient Age
Definition	Age of the individual at the time of prescription
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	3
Field Values	
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 2015
History	

Amount Approved

Variable Name	approved
Label	Amount Approved (Cents)
Definition	Amount of money in cents that the pharmacy has been approved
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	4
Field Values	
Additional Information	<p><i>approved</i> (total amount the pharmacy receives) = <i>paid</i> (total amount the government pays) + <i>copay</i> (amount the individual pays)</p> <p>The <i>approved</i> amount represents the total amount the pharmacy receives from the Seniors' Pharmacare program. The <i>paid</i> amount plus the <i>copay</i> amount should equal the <i>approved</i> amount within +/-2.5%, 95% of the time.</p> <p>The small amount of error present in this variable stems from adjustments made to the total amount paid to the recipient through previous paid amounts or deductibles paid.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 – 2015
History	The definition of <i>approved</i> changes beginning in 1996/97. The <i>paid</i> field which was new in 1996/97 replaces what was known as <i>approved</i> in previous years. The new <i>approved</i> field represents amounts before adjustments are applied. The <i>approved</i> variable represents the drug cost plus the dispensing fee, before adjustments.

Anatomical Therapeutic Class

Variable Name	atc
Label	Anatomical Therapeutic Class
Definition	ATC code of the prescription
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	7
Field Values	Null Values: 9999901 9999904
Additional Information	<p>The Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) Classification System is used for the classification of drugs. It is controlled by the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Drug Statistics Methodology (WHOCC).</p> <p>In the ATC classification system, the active substances are divided into different groups according to the organ or system on which they act and their therapeutic, pharmacological and chemical properties. Drugs are classified in groups at five different levels.</p> <p>Each first-level ATC code stands for a pharmaceutically used substance, or a combination of substances, in a single indication (or use). Therefore one drug can have more than one ATC code.</p> <p>For example, the drug Furosemide has an ATC code of C03CA01. Where the first level is C - cardiovascular system, 03 - diuretics, C - high-ceiling diuretics, A – sulfonamides 01 – Furosemide.</p> <p>The 'Drug ID Number' (<i>din</i>) is a separate classification variable assigned by Health Canada. Please see <i>din</i> variable for further information.</p> <p>For more information on ATC Classification, see the Definitions section at the beginning of this dictionary.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1996 - 2015
History	

Amount Claimed

Variable Name	claimed
Label	Amount Claimed (Cents)
Definition	Amount of money in cents that the individual has claimed
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	4
Field Values	
Additional Information	<p>Unaudited amount claimed by the pharmacy. This amount does not represent the amount approved by the Seniors Pharmacare program. Use caution when utilizing this variable. See <i>approved</i> for amount paid to pharmacies by the program.</p> <p>The small amount of error present in this variable in the form of negative numbers stems from administrative error.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 2015
History	

Claim Type

Variable Name	claimtyp
Label	Pricing Agreement Number
Definition	
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	1 (Pharmacy) 5 (Surgical Supply) Null Values: None
Additional Information	The pricing agreement number is an internally generated value derived at Medavie that refers to pricing methods applied to the claims. Regular pharmacies are paid a different dispensing fee than surgical supply stores
Dates Available	Fiscal 1996 - 2015
History	

Compound Indicator

Variable Name	compound
Label	Compound Indicator
Definition	
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	N (No) Y (Yes) Null Values: None
Additional Information	Variable represents whether or not the drug listed is a compounded drug. Compounding is the creation of a particular pharmaceutical product or custom dosage to fit the unique need of a patient to solve a specific therapeutic problem.
Dates Available	Fiscal 1996 - 2015
History	

Amount of Copay

Variable Name	copay
Label	Amount of Copay (Cents)
Definition	The copayment is the amount of the prescription cost that the recipient must pay each time a prescription is filled at the pharmacy.
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	4
Field Values	
Additional Information	<p><i>copay</i> (amount the individual pays) = <i>approved</i> (total amount the pharmacy receives) - <i>paid</i> (total amount the government pays)</p> <p>Portion to be paid by the recipient of the prescription. This amount depends on the price of the prescription and whether the recipient has reached their copay maximum for the year as defined by their carrier's benefit brochure.</p> <p>If the recipient has other drug insurance after their 65th birthday and the copayments paid under that insurance plan add up to more than what would have been paid had they been enrolled in the Seniors' Pharmacare Program, they can apply to the Seniors' Pharmacare Program to have the difference reimbursed.</p> <p>The copayment is 30 percent of the total cost of each prescription. Sometimes, the recipient has to pay more than the annual maximum copayment (i.e. when the recipient chooses the brand name drug, which is more expensive than the generic; or the prescribed drug or supply costs more than the maximum amount the Seniors' Pharmacare Program will pay; or the prescribed drug is not covered by the Seniors' Pharmacare Program.). For a list of items not covered under the Seniors' Pharmacare Program, see Definitions.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 2015
History	

Days Supply

Variable Name	daysupp
Label	Days Supply
Definition	The number of days for which the Seniors' Pharmacare program is allowed to pay.
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	3
Field Values	
Additional Information	<i>Days supply</i> value is submitted by the pharmacy. If the days supply submitted on the service encounter is higher than the max allowable limit, <i>days supply</i> is cut back to the max.
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 2015
History	

Physician County

Variable Name	dcounty
Label	Physician County
Definition	County or city of practise of prescribing physician
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	2
Field Values (Label)	00 (Unknown) 01 (Annapolis) 02 (Antigonish) 03 (Cape Breton) 04 (Colchester) 05 (Cumberland) 06 (Digby) 07 (Guysborough) 08 (Halifax County) 09 (Hants) 10 (Inverness) 11 (Kings) 12 (Lunenburg) 13 (Pictou) 14 (Queens) 15 (Richmond) 16 (Shelburne) 17 (Victoria) 18 (Yarmouth) 19 (City of Halifax) 20 (City of Dartmouth) 21 (Sydney) Null Values: “ “
Additional Information	Provider county (<i>dcounty</i>) is based on the postal code of the provider's correspondence address.
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 – 2015
History	

Drug ID Number

Variable Name	din
Label	Drug ID Number
Definition	Drug Identification Number (DIN) as generated by Health Canada
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	5
Field Values	Null Values: None
Additional Information	<p>A Drug Identification Number (DIN) is a unique, computer-generated eight digit number assigned by Health Canada to a drug product prior to being marketed in Canada.</p> <p>A DIN uniquely identifies the following product characteristics: manufacturer; product name; active ingredient(s); strength(s) of active ingredient(s); pharmaceutical form. A DIN lets the user know that the product has undergone and passed a review of its formulation, labeling and instructions for use. A drug product sold in Canada without a DIN is not in compliance with Canadian law.</p> <p>For the ATC code, please see the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) Classification System.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 2015
History	

Dispensing Fee

Variable Name	dispfee
Label	Dispensing Fee (Cents)
Definition	Professional Fee charged by the pharmacist for drug dispensing in cents
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	4
Field Values	
Additional Information	Professional fee approved by the Nova Scotia adjudication system. There is usually a maximum fee depending on the drug dispensed and the provider agreement.
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 2015
History	

Date of Birth

Variable Name	dob
Label	Date of Birth
Definition	Individual's date of birth
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	4
Field Values	
Additional Information	<p>Due to confidentiality reasons date of birth will not be released in full to external researchers because of the potential to identify individuals.</p> <p>Month and Year of birth may be released if required for a research project and approved by the HDNS Data Access Committee. Alternatively, a variable for age at a given index date may be derived by HDNS and released.</p> <p>Date of birth (<i>dob</i>) is stored in the SAS date format, which is a value that represents the number of days between January 1, 1960, and a specified date. Dates before January 1, 1960, are negative numbers; dates after are positive numbers.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1996 - 2015
History	Replaced Year of Birth (YOB) in 1996

Provider ID

Variable Name	doctor
Label	Provider Number
Definition	Encrypted provider identification number
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	24
Field Values	Null Values: None
Additional Information	<p>Provider IDs are not available for release due to confidentiality reasons. These are used internally by HDNS for data linkage.</p> <p>In some cases a valid provider ID is not available. As a result the field will either be left blank or filled with a “dummy” ID. Observations containing a dummy ID, or a null value may not need to be excluded if a project’s scope does not need to identify individual providers.</p> <p>Unique IDs can be generated by HDNS for research projects which can be used to link between datasets or count observations of individuals.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 2015
History	

Provider Type

Variable Name	doctype
Label	Provider Type
Definition	The type of provider that made the prescription
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	2
Field Values (Label)	DE (Dentist) MW (Midwife) NP (Nurse Practitioner) OP (Optometrist) PH (Physician) PM (Dummy Pharmacist Number) PX (Pharmacist) Null Values: None
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 2015
History	

Drug Cost

Variable Name	drugcost
Label	Drug Cost (Cents)
Definition	Cost of prescribed drugs in cents as determined by the formulary.
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	4
Field Values	
Additional Information	<p><i>drugcost</i> (cost of drug as listed in the Nova Scotia Formulary) = <i>approved</i> (amount approved by the Seniors' Pharmacare program) – <i>markup</i> (markup added by the pharmacy) – <i>dispfee</i> (dispensing fee charged by the pharmacy)</p> <p>Total cost of drug component of the prescription as determined by the Nova Scotia Formulary.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 2015
History	

Generic Drug Indicator

Variable Name	generic
Label	Generic Indicator
Definition	Indicates whether or not the prescription was for generic drugs
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	N (No) Y (Yes) Null Values: None
Additional Information	Indicates whether the drug on the service encounter is generic or brand name.
Dates Available	Fiscal 1996 - 2015
History	

Max Allowable Cost

Variable Name	mac
Label	Max Allowable Cost Indicator
Definition	Indicates if the max allowable cost was achieved
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	N (No) Y (Yes) Null Values: None
Additional Information	<p>Indicates whether the drug is one where the Maximum Allowable Cost (<i>mac</i>) pricing for interchangeable drugs is applied.</p> <p><i>mac</i> is applied to those drugs which are covered Pharmacare benefits and have been deemed interchangeable (e.g., brand name drugs and their generic equivalents).</p> <p>Some generic drugs may have exceptions to the <i>mac</i>, and their max reimbursable price will also be included in the Formulary. Exemptions are available for beneficiaries who have experienced side effects with lower cost alternatives.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1996 - 2015
History	

Markup Paid

Variable Name	markup
Label	Markup Paid (Cents)
Definition	Amount of markup paid in cents
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	4
Field Values	
Additional Information	<p><i>markup</i> (markup added by the pharmacy) = <i>approved</i> (amount approved by the Seniors' Pharmacare program) – <i>drugcost</i> (cost of drug as listed in the Nova Scotia Formulary) – <i>dispfee</i> (dispensing fee charged by the pharmacy)</p> <p>Any additional amount added to the cost of the drug at the pharmacy counter. This refers to total added value (e.g. mark up, inventory allowance, etc.) plus any applicable federal or provincial taxes but does not include any professional fee.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1996-2015
History	

Health Care Number

Variable Name	msi
Label	Patient MSI Number
Definition	Individual's encrypted MSI number
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	24
Field Values	Null Values: " "
Additional Information	<p>Individual's MSI health card number is not available for release due to confidentiality reasons. It is used internally by Health Data Nova Scotia for data linkage.</p> <p>In some cases a valid HCN is not available. As a result the field will either be left blank or filled with a "dummy" HCN. Observations containing a dummy HCN, or a null value are to be excluded from most analysis which focus on the MSI eligible population.</p> <p>Unique IDs can be generated by HDNS for research projects which can be used to link between datasets or count observations of individuals.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 2015
History	

Original / Repeat

Variable Name	or
Label	Original/Repeat Indicator
Definition	Defines the refill status of a prescription
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	N (New) P (Trial) Q (Balance) R (Repeat) Null Values: None
Additional Information	Code of 'Q' (Balance) refers to the partial fill of a repeat prescription whereas a code of 'P' (Trial) is the partial fill of a new prescription.
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 2015
History	

Amount Paid

Variable Name	paid
Label	Amount Paid (Cents)
Definition	Amount paid to the individual/pharmacy in cents
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	4
Field Values	
Additional Information	The amount paid field contains the amount paid to the pharmacy or individual by the program. Deductions are any money that the patient or a payor of first resort is responsible to pay Eg. copay/coinsurance, deductible, or previous paid amount (an amount paid by the insurer of first resort, like a private plan for example)
Dates Available	Fiscal 1996 - 2015
History	

Payee Type

Variable Name	paytype
Label	Payee Type
Definition	The payee for the prescription
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	1 (Pay Patient) 2 (Pay Provider) Null Values: None
Additional Information	Indicates the type of payee (Pay Provider, Pay Recipient). For example: an individual receives a prescription from a pharmacy but does not have a program card/coverage information with them. So they pay cash and then submit the receipt to Pharmacare directly for reimbursement. This would show in the system as a pay patient claim.
Dates Available	Fiscal 1996 – 2015
History	

Patient County

Variable Name	pcounty
Label	Patient County
Definition	County or city in which the individual resides
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	2
Field Values (Label)	00 (Unknown) 01 (Annapolis) 02 (Antigonish) 03 (Cape Breton) 04 (Colchester) 05 (Cumberland) 06 (Digby) 07 (Guysborough) 08 (Halifax County) 09 (Hants) 10 (Inverness) 11 (Kings) 12 (Lunenburg) 13 (Pictou) 14 (Queens) 15 (Richmond) 16 (Shelburne) 17 (Victoria) 18 (Yarmouth) 19 (City of Halifax) 20 (City of Dartmouth) 21 (Sydney) Null Values: “ “
Additional Information	Provider county (<i>pcounty</i>) is based on the postal code of the individual's correspondence address.
Dates Available	Fiscal 1996 - 2015
History	

Pharmacy ID

Variable Name	pharmacy
Label	Pharmacy Number
Definition	Unique pharmacy identification number
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	24
Field Values	Null Values: None
Additional Information	<p>Pharmacy IDs are not available for release due to confidentiality reasons. They are used internally by Health Data Nova Scotia for data linkage.</p> <p>In some cases a valid pharmacy ID is not available. As a result the field will either be left blank or filled with a “dummy” ID. Observations containing a dummy ID, or a null value may not need to be excluded if a project’s scope does not need to identify individual providers.</p> <p>Unique IDs can be generated by Health Data Nova Scotia for research project-s which can be used to link between datasets or count observations of individuals.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1996 - 2015
History	

Prescription Date

Variable Name	rxdate
Label	Prescription Date
Definition	Indicates date when the prescription was filled
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	4
Field Values	
Additional Information	Prescription date (<i>rxdate</i>) is stored in the SAS date format, which is a value that represents the number of days between January 1, 1960, and a specified date. Dates before January 1, 1960, are negative numbers; dates after are positive numbers.
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 2015
History	

Provincial Medical Board Number

Variable Name	pmb
Label	Prov Medical Board Number
Definition	Encrypted provider's provincial medical board license number
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	24
Field Values	
Additional Information	<p>The license numbers (<i>pmb</i>) are unique identifiers within each provider type and are the numbers assigned by each provider's Provincial Licensing Board (e.g. For provider types of 'NS physician' the licensing board would be the NS College of Physicians and Surgeons).</p> <p>The license numbers are not available for release due to confidentiality reasons. They are used internally by Health Data Nova Scotia for data linkage.</p> <p>Unique IDs can be generated by Health Data Nova Scotia for research project-s which can be used to link between datasets or count observations of individuals.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1996 - 2015
History	

Postal Code

Variable Name	postcode
Label	Postal Code
Definition	Individual's postal code
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	6
Field Values	Null Values: " "
Additional Information	Only the first three digits are available for release. Full postal code may be released only if deemed necessary for the research project by the HDNS Data Access Committee.
Dates Available	Fiscal 1996 - 2015
History	

Program Code

Variable Name	program
Label	Program Code
Definition	Indicates under which MSI program the service recipient is claiming.
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	<p>0 (NSDAP - NS Diabetes Assistance Program (Under 65)) 1 (PDA - Diabetic Assistance) 2 (PFB - Family Benefits) 3 (PIA - Income Assistance) 4 (PIAX - Income Assist. No Copay) 5 (PMSI - Seniors Pharmacare) 6 (PMSIG - Seniors Pharmacare GIS) 7 (PMSIX - Seniors GIS No Copay) 8 (PLTC - Pharmacare Long Term Care (Under 65)) 9 (PNSFP - Nova Scotia Family Pharmacare Program)</p> <p>Null Values: None</p>
Additional Information	<p>Programs 5, 6 and 7 indicate Seniors Pharmacare. Programs 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9 indicate Community Services Pharmacare.</p> <p>The Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) provides a monthly non-taxable benefit to Old Age Security (OAS) recipients who have a low income and are living in Canada. Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) provides drug coverage to its Nova Scotia members who do not receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). However, seniors that are a PSHCP member and receive the GIS, may be eligible for the Seniors' Pharmacare Program for primary drug coverage.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1996 - 2015
History	

Quantity Dispensed

Variable Name	qty
Label	Quantity Dispensed
Definition	Quantity of medication dispensed to the recipient
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	4
Field Values	
Additional Information	<p>The quantity dispensed (<i>qty</i>) represents a measurement of a prescription submitted by the pharmacy. This variable should be populated by per dose measurement; however, it is known that some drug quantities are not entered properly by the reporting pharmacies.</p> <p>i.e. The qty for aerosols should be submitted per dose, however sometimes a pharmacy will submit 1 inhaler instead of 200 doses.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 2015
History	

Sex

Variable Name	sex
Label	Patient Gender
Definition	The sex of the individual
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	F (Female) M (Male) Null Values: None
Additional Information	In earlier datasets the field values are: 1 Male 2 Female
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 2015
History	

Discontinued Variables

Adjustment Code

Variable Name	ADJUST
Label	Adjustment Code
Definition	
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	2
Field Values (Label)	40 (Veteran Affairs)
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 1994
History	

Drug Class

Variable Name	DCLASS
Label	Drug Class
Definition	
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	4
Field Values	
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 1995
History	Drug class is replaced by Anatomical Therapeutic Class

Drug Type

Variable Name	DRUGTYPE
Label	Drug Type
Definition	Type of drug prescribed to the individual
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	1 (Prescription Drugs) 2 (Injectables) 3 (Insulin) 4 (Over the Counter) 5 (Compounds) 6 (Contraceptives) 7 (Diabetic/Ostomy Supplies) 9 (Dummy DIN)
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 1995
History	

GAR Indicator

Variable Name	g_a_r
Label	Green/Amber/Red Indicator
Definition	
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	G (Green - 1st Line) A (Amber - 2nd Line) R (Red - 3rd Line)
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1996-2006
History	

GIS Indicator

Variable Name	GISI
Label	GIS Indicator
Definition	
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	0 (Non-GIS) 1 (GIS) 2 (GIS, No Copay)
Additional Information	The Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) provides a monthly non-taxable benefit to Old Age Security (OAS) recipients who have a low income and are living in Canada.
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 1996
History	

Refills Allowed

Variable Name	REFILLS
Label	Number of refills allowed
Definition	
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	3
Field Values	
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 1995
History	

Source of Claim

Variable Name	STATUS
Label	Source of Claim
Definition	Individual's source of prescription claim
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	0 (Out of Province) 1 (Pharmacies) 2 (Physicians and Clinics) 3 (Hospitals) 4 (Surgical Supply Houses)
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 1995
History	

Trial DIN

Variable Name	trialdin
Label	Trial DIN Indicator
Definition	Indicates whether or not the prescription was for a drug with a trial DIN
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	N (No) Y (Yes)
Additional Information	This variable only has values for fiscal years 1996 to 2006 although it is present in the data until 2012, it is no longer used.
Dates Available	1996-2006
History	

Year of Birth

Variable Name	YOB
Label	Year of Birth
Definition	Individual's year of birth
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	3
Field Values	
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1989 - 1995
History	Replaced by the Date of Birth (DOB) variable