

As a pharmacist, I too am concerned about the sustainability of the health care model in New Brunswick. The general public requires better access to medications. However, the Government has to realize that the decreased revenue from decreased prices has to be made up elsewhere. It costs an estimated \$15 to fill a prescription in overhead and salary costs, yet the New Brunswick government pays pharmacies only about 60% of that amount. Where do you think the rest of that revenue comes from? I fully support the Government paying for Medication Reviews and Disease State Managements. This is what pharmacists have been trained to do and ,studies have shown, these decrease physician visits and hospital admissions for med-related problems. Programs such as these will help compensate for some of the lost revenue. However, by decreasing or eliminating drug rebates by Generic manufacturers as has been suggested by some, pharmacies will see even more lost revenue. These rebates help keep pharmacies open longer hours and pay for times when prescription volume is low (such as late at night) in order to keep a pharmacist available and accessible.

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