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The Honourable Madeleine Dube
Minister of Health, Government of New Brunswick
Department of Health
PO Box 5100
520 King Street, 6th Floor
Fredericton, New Brunswick
E3B 5G8

August 12, 2011

Dear Minister,

RE: Consultation on generic drug pricing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on how to get better drug prices for the people of New Brunswick.

Express Scripts Canada is a leading health claim management company in Canada. We serve over 7 million Canadians as an intermediary among plan sponsors, health care providers, insurance companies, third party payors and plan members.

We support the need to have lower generic drug prices for all payors in New Brunswick as we have observed increases per claimant each year for their health plan benefits. In particular, where public pricing does not apply to private plans, plan sponsors have experienced significant drug cost increases. For the 55% of New Brunswickers who have access to a private plan, these increases pressure their plan sponsors to implement new solutions to manage the drug claim costs to be able to continue providing this valuable benefit.

Lower generic prices for all drug claims in New Brunswick would help ensure the sustainability of private drug plans paid for by the employers in New Brunswick. These lower generic prices would also mean lower out-of-pocket expenses for many New Brunswickers who pay a portion of their drug claims through the coinsurance or premium sharing.

For this reason we strongly support that lower drug prices be made applicable to all drug claims in New Brunswick. This strategy of consistent drug pricing would reduce the administrative burden on pharmacies, manufacturers and distributors; make drug claim prices easier to understand for New Brunswickers; and allow the Ministry of Health's policy to be in line with the other provinces.

Please contact us if you have any questions about our input.

John Herbert
Director, Product and Clinical Services

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Manager, Drug Database and Plan Management

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Optimizing the Value of Health Benefits