



## Health Newsflash

### Top 100 Therapy Classes of 2003



*This Health Newsflash contains the 2003 ESI Canada Top 100 Therapy Classes report. This year, we split our analysis in two: We look at the top therapy classes outside Quebec and in Quebec.*

#### **Top 100 Therapy Classes for Claims Outside Quebec**

Rather than focusing on specific drugs where each DIN (Drug Identification Number) can represent a drug with a different dosage or strength, therapy classes capture all forms of all similar drugs. The report ranks drug classes by allowable ingredient cost, including markup, and reflects pricing and utilization for the drugs. Ingredient cost and utilization are two important drivers in determining the overall drug costs to private drug plans.

### **Optimizing the Value of Drug and Dental Benefits**

The report also includes rankings by number of prescriptions and net cost. The number of prescriptions does not account for varied number of days' supply per prescription, but the number of days' supply generally remains consistent from year to year. Net cost includes allowable professional fees and ingredient costs, less member payments. We also look at the average net cost per prescription (ANCP) and the percentage change in the ANCP between 2002 and 2003.

#### **Top five therapy classes**

The top five therapy classes remain unchanged since 2000. They are:

1. high cholesterol
2. ulcers and reflux disease
3. depression
4. high blood pressure and heart failure
5. arthritis and pain

The costs to treat these 5 conditions account for 44.6% of total ingredient costs paid in 2003. As reported in the mid-year review for 2003, while the top two therapy classes have not changed in ranking, their ANCP has decreased at year end by 4.3% and 1.4% compared to 2002. The introduction of generic simvastatin (for Zocor) has decreased the ANCP in the cholesterol lowering therapy class from \$92.72 to \$88.73. Similarly, in the ulcer and reflux therapy class, the increasing use of lower priced proton pump inhibitors such as Nexium and Pariet (instead of Losec) have resulted in a decrease in the ANCP from \$100.79 to \$99.42. With the introduction of omeprazole (generic Losec) in 2004, the ANCP of this therapy class will continue to decrease.

#### **Utilization of combination products**

The use of combination products (products containing more than one drug) continue to rise. Two classes of combination products have continued to grow (by ingredient cost rank):

- Combination inhalers for asthma now rank 10, up from 14 in 2002 and 27 in 2001.
- Combination therapies for high blood pressure. Since more than one drug is often required to maintain adequate blood pressure control, it is not surprising to see an increased use in these combination products. Specifically, two drug classes used to treat high blood pressure have changed in ranking:
  1. angiotensin II receptor antagonists/thiazides (e.g., Hyzaar) jumped from 71 in 2001 to 51 in 2002, then 38 in 2003.
  2. angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors/thiazides (e.g., Prinzide) moved from 78 in 2002 to 68 in 2003.





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#### Optimizing the Value of Drug and Dental Benefits

##### Change in utilization for other therapy classes

Drugs used to treat obesity continue to decrease in ingredient cost rank. Xenical decreased in rank from 25 in 2002 to 29 in 2003, while Meridia now ranks 82, down from 66 in 2002. However, when combined, these two drugs account for approximately 1% of total net costs.

The use of biologics in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis continues to increase. Remicade increased in rank to 24 compared to 30 in 2002 and Enbrel now ranks 25, compared to 38 from last year. An 18% price reduction for Remicade last year resulted in an overall net cost decrease of 6.6%. Nevertheless, the combined total net cost for both agents increased from 1.3% in 2002 to 1.7% in 2003.

Use of hormone replacement therapy (HRT), to alleviate symptoms of menopause and prevention of osteoporosis, continues to decrease. Findings emerging from the Women's Health Initiative, a 15-year research study involving over 160,000 women, continue to warn of the risks associated with long term HRT in regards to breast cancer, heart disease, stroke and blood clots. Estrogen now ranks 40 (down from 27 in 2002) and progesterone ranks 54 (down from 41 in 2002). The ranking for Evista, another type of drug for osteoporosis, has also declined (from 69 in 2002 to 80 in 2003). As such, utilization of other more expensive drugs for osteoporosis such as the bisphosphonates (i.e., Fosamax, Actonel and Didronel) have increased in rank to 17 compared to 21 in 2002.

##### Therapy classes entering the top 100 in 2003

Three drugs used to treat schizophrenia, Zyprexa, Risperdal and Seroquel, continue to increase in ingredient ranking. Zyprexa ranks 41 (up from 112 in 2002), Risperdal ranks 66 (up from 73 in 2002) and Seroquel ranks 89 (up from 194 in 2002). The effectiveness of these drugs in treating various psychotic disorders contributes to their increasing use in clinical practice. These three drugs account for 1% of the net costs in 2003.

A new therapy class for Multiple Sclerosis agents was created in 2003 and now ranks 16. Drugs in this class were previously classified under the Antineoplastics Miscellaneous (for cancer, hepatitis and multiple sclerosis). This change resulted in the Antineoplastic Miscellaneous class to decrease in ranking from 11 in 2002 to 61 in 2003.

Combination therapy for Hepatitis C infection has jumped from 101 in 2002 to 48 in 2003. Pegatron was launched in the fall of 2002, which may account for the change in ranking.

Therapy classes used to treat skin disorders entered the Top 100 in 2003. Topical steroid combinations ranks 87 compared to 110 in 2002 and topical immunosuppressants (i.e., Protopic and Elidel) increased in rank to 73 from 105 in 2002.

##### Increase in cost per prescription

For the top 100 therapy classes, there was a 6.55% increase in the average net cost per prescription in 2003 compared to 2002. The top 100 therapy classes account for 87% of the 2003 total net costs.

A greater than 10% increase in average net cost per prescription was seen for the following therapy classes:

- Progestins (used with estrogen replacement to prevent endometrial cancer) 15.7%
- Growth hormones (for use in children with retarded growth) 11.24%
- Androgens (for patients with low testosterone levels) 11.52%
- Miscellaneous Stimulants (for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) 18.38%
- Topical steroid combinations (for skin inflammation) 28.91%

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#### *Optimizing the Value of Drug and Dental Benefits*

#### *Top 100 Therapy Classes for Quebec Claims*

New this year are the utilization trends for Quebec claims. We have analyzed them separately due to the fact that Quebec pharmacies do not separate the professional fee and the ingredient cost. Therefore, the top 100 therapy classes for 2003 were ranked by total prescription costs. Since the number of claims adjudicated by ESI Canada in Quebec increased substantially from 2002 to 2003, a comparison would not be accurate. Therefore, this report captures only claims for 2003 and will serve as a baseline for future comparisons.

The top 100 therapy classes represented 88% of the total net paid for all prescriptions. The average net cost per prescription was lower at \$41.66 compared to \$49.79. This can be explained by the differences in the average days supply in Quebec which is usually 30 days compared to an average of 44 days outside Quebec.

While the top five conditions treated are the same and account for a similar proportion (42.5%) of the total prescription costs, the ranking of each differs when compared to claims outside of Quebec. The top five conditions by prescription costs are:

1. high blood pressure and heart failure
2. high cholesterol
3. depression
4. arthritis and pain
5. ulcers and reflux disease

#### *Key Messages*

Combination products, new drugs, and increasing utilization, continue to be the most significant developments driving the increase in drug plan costs.

Plan design changes emphasizing more cost-effective therapy, such as multi-tiered drug plans and therapeutic formularies, can offer plan sponsors a number of options to manage the increases in drug plan costs.

ESI Canada now has some baseline numbers for the Quebec market that will be useful in future comparisons.

Authors: Ben Arefi  
Johnny Ma, B.Sc.Pharm.  
Editor: Steven Semelman, Pharm.D.

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**Therapy Class Ranking (Top 100 Ranked by Ingredient Cost)**  
**Prescriptions Filled from 01/2002 through 12/2002 compared to 01/2003 through 12/2003**  
**Claims Outside Quebec**

GPI	Therapy Class Name	Common Indications	# Rxs Rank		Ing Cost Rank		Net Cost Rank		% of Total Net		Avg Net Cost/Rx		% Change in Avg Net Cost/Rx	
			2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003		
394000	HMG COA REDUCTASE INHIBITORS	High cholesterol	2	1	1	1	1	1	7.32	7.39	\$ 92.72	\$ 88.73	-4.30%	
492700	PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS	Ulcers, reflux	10	4	2	2	2	2	5.94	6.51	\$ 100.79	\$ 99.42	-1.36%	
581600	SELECTIVE SEROTONIN REUPTAKE INHIBITORS	Depression	1	2	3	3	3	3	5.33	5.21	\$ 64.72	\$ 65.01	0.45%	
361000	ACE INHIBITORS	High blood pressure, heart failure	4	3	5	4	5	4	3.71	3.66	\$ 53.18	\$ 53.82	1.20%	
661005	CYCLOOXYGENASE 2 (COX-2) INHIBITORS	Arthritis, pain, and inflammation	12	10	6	5	6	5	3.27	3.13	\$ 59.15	\$ 59.19	0.07%	
999000	NOT CLASSIFIED	Diabetic supplies, compounding chemicals	3	5	4	6	4	6	3.87	3.04	\$ 51.40	\$ 48.06	-6.50%	
340000	CALCIUM BLOCKERS	High blood pressure, angina	17	17	7	7	7	7	2.74	2.7	\$ 63.02	\$ 63.33	0.49%	
583000	MISC. ANTIDEPRESSANTS	Depression	20	19	8	8	8	8	2.2	2.63	\$ 61.05	\$ 63.06	3.29%	
674060	SELECTIVE SEROTONIN AGONISTS 5-HT(1)	Migraines	42	42	9	9	9	9	1.94	1.89	\$ 126.07	\$ 129.32	2.58%	
442099	ADRENERGIC COMBINATIONS	Asthma	41	31	14	10	15	10	1.35	1.76	\$ 86.95	\$ 89.01	2.37%	
444000	STEROID INHALANTS	Asthma	21	22	10	11	10	11	1.79	1.54	\$ 53.01	\$ 52.78	-0.43%	
361500	ANGIOTENSIN II RECEPTOR ANTAGONIST	High blood pressure	28	23	13	12	14	13	1.44	1.49	\$ 59.89	\$ 59.66	-0.38%	
259900	COMBINATIONS OC'S	Prevention of pregnancy	6	6	12	13	11	12	1.56	1.51	\$ 25.77	\$ 26.14	1.44%	
651000	NARCOTIC AGONISTS	Pain	32	28	18	14	18	14	1.23	1.48	\$ 58.99	\$ 62.66	6.22%	
276070	THIAZOLIDINEDIONES	Diabetes	69	66	17	15	20	17	1.14	1.25	\$ 146.25	\$ 151.15	3.35%	
624030	MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AGENTS	Multiple sclerosis	NA	193	NA	16	NA	19	NA	1.19	NA	\$ 1,341.76	NA	NA
300420	BISPHOSPHONATES	Osteoporosis	38	33	21	17	23	18	1.08	1.2	\$ 66.50	\$ 62.92	-5.38%	
422000	NASAL STEROIDS	Allergies	19	18	19	18	16	16	1.32	1.31	\$ 30.94	\$ 31.26	1.03%	
661000	NSAIA'S	Pain and inflammation	9	11	15	19	13	15	1.5	1.33	\$ 25.30	\$ 25.40	0.40%	
259920	TRIPHASIC OC'S	Prevention of pregnancy	15	15	16	20	17	20	1.28	1.17	\$ 25.41	\$ 26.38	3.82%	
50000	FLUOROQUINOLONES	Antibiotic-treatment of infection	25	25	20	21	19	21	1.19	1.15	\$ 47.77	\$ 46.97	-1.67%	
726000	MISC. ANTICONVULSANTS	Epilepsy	47	44	23	22	27	22	0.91	1.02	\$ 73.57	\$ 74.97	1.90%	
35000	CLARITHROMYCIN	Antibiotic-treatment of infection	24	30	22	23	22	23	1.08	0.98	\$ 42.81	\$ 44.01	2.80%	
525050	TUMOUR NECROSIS FACTOR INHIBITOR (Infliximab)	Rheumatoid arthritis, crohn's disease	303	275	30	24	33	27	0.7	0.86	\$ 3,773.56	\$ 3,298.08	-12.60%	
662900	ETANERCEPT (ANTI-TNF AGENT)	Rheumatoid arthritis	231	211	38	25	41	29	0.6	0.79	\$ 1,250.66	\$ 1,207.05	-3.49%	
34000	AZITHROMYCIN	Antibiotic-treatment of infection	27	24	29	26	29	26	0.86	0.89	\$ 35.72	\$ 35.64	-0.22%	
332000	BETA BLOCKERS CARDIO-SELECTIVE	High blood pressure, angina	18	16	24	27	26	25	0.96	0.93	\$ 22.46	\$ 21.83	-2.80%	
445050	LEUKOTRIENE RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS	Asthma	70	69	34	28	36	32	0.69	0.72	\$ 88.24	\$ 90.19	2.21%	
612535	FAT ABSORPTION DECREASING AGENTS (ORLISTAT)	Obesity	88	97	25	29	30	33	0.82	0.7	\$ 150.72	\$ 150.49	-0.15%	
905500	CORTICOSTEROIDS - TOPICAL	Itchy, inflamed skin	7	8	28	30	21	24	1.11	0.97	\$ 18.35	\$ 18.01	-1.85%	
271040	HUMAN INSULIN	Diabetes	33	38	33	31	31	31	0.74	0.72	\$ 41.05	\$ 43.45	5.85%	
492000	H-2 ANTAGONISTS	Ulcers, reflux, heartburn	29	32	26	32	28	30	0.9	0.74	\$ 38.81	\$ 38.57	-0.62%	
525000	INFLAMMATORY BOWEL AGENTS	Crohn's disease and inflammatory bowel disease	74	78	36	33	39	37	0.67	0.64	\$ 101.67	\$ 107.01	5.25%	
172000	BACTERIAL VACCINES	Prevention of bacterial infection	75	71	39	34	44	36	0.56	0.64	\$ 87.76	\$ 84.38	-3.85%	
900500	ACNE PRODUCTS	Acne	39	43	35	35	32	34	0.72	0.67	\$ 45.85	\$ 47.33	3.23%	
392000	FIBRIC ACID DERIVATIVES	High cholesterol	55	56	37	36	38	39	0.67	0.63	\$ 65.76	\$ 65.46	-0.46%	
442010	BETA ADRENERGICS	Asthma	11	13	31	37	24	28	0.99	0.84	\$ 17.78	\$ 16.82	-5.40%	
369940	ANGIOTENSIN II RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS & THIAZIDES	High blood pressure	71	51	51	38	55	42	0.39	0.56	\$ 53.86	\$ 55.15	2.40%	
851500	PLATELET AGGREGATION INHIBITORS	Prevention of harmful blood clots	93	77	48	39	53	43	0.45	0.56	\$ 92.50	\$ 92.02	-0.52%	
240000	ESTROGENS	Menopausal symptoms, osteoporosis	13	20	27	40	25	35	0.97	0.66	\$ 17.94	\$ 18.78	4.68%	
591570	THIENBENZODIAZEPINES	Schizophrenia	188	103	112	41	119	46	0.14	0.54	\$ 130.61	\$ 129.17	-1.10%	
403040	SELECTIVE CGMP PHOSPHODIESTERASE TYPE 5 INHIBITORS	Erectile dysfunction	76	74	44	42	46	44	0.5	0.55	\$ 79.87	\$ 81.27	1.75%	



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124050	HERPES AGENTS - PURINE ANALOGUES	Genital herpes, shingles, chickenpox	87	79	45	43	51	49	0.47	0.5	\$ 85.50	\$ 85.85	0.41%
300620	OVULATION STIMULANTS-GONADOTROPINS	Infertility	197	183	49	44	54	51	0.4	0.47	\$ 427.88	\$ 448.00	4.70%
40000	TETRACYCLINES	Antibiotic-treatment of infection	43	45	40	45	42	47	0.58	0.53	\$ 39.75	\$ 40.35	1.51%
272500	BIGUANIDES	Diabetes	30	26	46	46	45	41	0.53	0.58	\$ 23.45	\$ 23.63	0.77%
22000	CEPHALOSPORINS - 2ND GENERATION	Antibiotic-treatment of infection	37	40	42	47	43	45	0.58	0.54	\$ 34.73	\$ 35.55	2.36%
129950	NUCLEOSIDE ANALOG & INTERFERON COMBINATIONS	Hepatitis C infection	318	254	101	48	110	52	0.17	0.46	\$ 1,242.02	\$ 1,337.13	7.66%
621000	SMOKING DETERRENTS	For smoking cessation	44	57	32	49	37	54	0.67	0.44	\$ 47.17	\$ 46.91	-0.55%
624000	MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AGENTS	Multiple sclerosis	250	232	52	50	58	55	0.36	0.43	\$ 927.71	\$ 969.43	4.50%
602040	NON-BENZODIAZEPINE - GABA-RECEPTOR MODULATORS	Insomnia	36	34	50	51	50	48	0.48	0.51	\$ 27.58	\$ 27.77	0.69%
824010	ERYTHROPOIETINS	Anemia	240	228	53	52	59	57	0.36	0.4	\$ 842.34	\$ 858.09	1.87%
121099	ANTIRETROVIRAL COMBINATIONS	HIV, AIDS	234	223	55	53	60	58	0.34	0.38	\$ 727.16	\$ 739.22	1.66%
260000	PROGESTINS	With estrogen replacement to prevent endometrial cancer	23	37	41	54	40	56	0.61	0.42	\$ 21.98	\$ 25.43	15.70%
389000	ANAPHYLAXIS THERAPY AGENTS	Severe allergic reactions	136	132	58	55	64	62	0.31	0.35	\$ 119.09	\$ 125.23	5.16%
249915	ESTROGENS & ANTI-ANDROGENS	Acne, hirsutism	52	62	47	56	52	60	0.47	0.37	\$ 42.97	\$ 42.82	-0.35%
824015	GRANULOCYTE COLONY-STIMULATING FACTOR (G-CSF)	Low white blood cells	285	274	67	57	77	65	0.26	0.34	\$ 1,180.09	\$ 1,293.50	9.61%
214050	LHRH ANALOGS	Prostate cancer, endometriosis	190	185	57	58	61	67	0.33	0.33	\$ 308.82	\$ 329.06	6.55%
231000	ANDROGENS	Low testosterone levels, osteoporosis, breast cancer	115	117	61	59	70	66	0.29	0.33	\$ 81.86	\$ 91.29	11.52%
614000	MISC. STIMULANTS	Attention deficit disorder	59	55	71	60	68	61	0.29	0.36	\$ 31.78	\$ 37.62	18.38%
217000	ANTINEOPLASTICS MISC.	Cancer, hepatitis, multiple sclerosis	171	214	11	61	12	69	1.53	0.32	\$ 976.49	\$ 532.41	-45.48%
659910	CODEINE COMBINATIONS	Pain	8	9	56	62	35	38	0.7	0.64	\$ 11.65	\$ 11.85	1.72%
272000	SULFONYLUREAS	Diabetes	34	36	59	63	56	59	0.37	0.37	\$ 20.86	\$ 22.15	6.18%
12000	AMPICILLINS	Antibiotic-treatment of infection	5	7	54	64	34	40	0.7	0.61	\$ 11.30	\$ 11.14	-1.42%
620510	CHOLINOMIMETICS - ACHE INHIBITORS	Alzheimer's disease	148	114	84	65	92	68	0.21	0.32	\$ 94.89	\$ 86.16	-9.20%
590700	BENZISOXAZOLES	Schizophrenia	90	82	73	66	74	70	0.27	0.3	\$ 52.25	\$ 52.47	0.42%
540000	URINARY ANTISPASMODICS	Urinary spasms	96	92	75	67	78	71	0.26	0.29	\$ 54.34	\$ 58.47	7.60%
369918	ACE INHIBITORS & THIAZIDES	High blood pressure, heart failure	104	88	78	68	81	75	0.24	0.28	\$ 52.63	\$ 54.11	2.81%
110000	ANTIFUNGALS	Fungal infections	130	134	63	69	71	77	0.28	0.26	\$ 98.58	\$ 98.88	0.30%
331000	BETA BLOCKERS NON-SELECTIVE	High blood pressure, angina	58	65	64	70	66	72	0.31	0.29	\$ 33.59	\$ 34.51	2.74%
281000	THYROID HORMONES	Thyroid replacement	14	12	70	71	49	50	0.49	0.48	\$ 9.15	\$ 9.18	0.33%
114070	TRIAZOLES	Fungal infections	62	63	62	72	62	74	0.32	0.28	\$ 35.27	\$ 33.21	-5.84%
907840	MACROLIDE IMMUNOSUPPRESSANTS - TOPICAL	Skin disorders	172	135	105	73	114	79	0.16	0.25	\$ 105.18	\$ 94.63	-10.03%
124080	HERPES AGENTS - THYMIDINE ANALOGUES	Genital herpes, shingles, chickenpox	141	145	68	74	75	80	0.27	0.24	\$ 106.99	\$ 106.52	-0.44%
994030	INOSINE MONOPHOSPHATE DEHYDROGENASE INHIBITORS	Immunosuppressant, transplant	228	221	79	75	85	83	0.22	0.23	\$ 460.84	\$ 428.03	-7.12%
751000	CENTRAL MUSCLE RELAXANTS	Muscle spasticity	50	47	76	76	69	73	0.29	0.28	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.08	0.32%
582000	TRICYCLIC AGENTS	Depression	26	29	74	77	57	63	0.36	0.34	\$ 15.09	\$ 15.14	0.33%
171000	VIRAL VACCINES	Prevention of viruses	98	93	77	78	79	82	0.24	0.24	\$ 51.89	\$ 49.54	-4.53%
900599	ACNE COMBINATIONS	Acne	67	60	87	79	83	76	0.23	0.27	\$ 27.73	\$ 29.94	7.97%
300530	SELECTIVE ESTROGEN RECEPTOR MODULATORS (SERMS)	Osteoporosis, cancer	127	138	69	80	73	86	0.27	0.22	\$ 87.14	\$ 88.91	2.03%
571000	BENZODIAZEPINES	Epilepsy, sedation	16	14	72	81	47	53	0.5	0.46	\$ 10.00	\$ 9.88	-1.20%
612540	MONOAMINE REUPTAKE INHIBITOR (SIBUTRAMINE)	Obesity	149	157	66	82	72	88	0.27	0.22	\$ 126.44	\$ 127.04	0.47%



**Therapy Class Ranking (Top 100 Ranked by Ingredient Cost)**  
**Prescriptions Filled from 01/2002 through 12/2002 compared to 01/2003 through 12/2003**  
**Claims Outside Quebec**

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			2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	
941000	DIAGNOSTIC REAGENTS	Diagnosis of diseases	109	128	60	83	67	91	0.3	0.21	\$ 70.18	\$ 70.18	0.00%
213000	ANTIMETABOLITES	Cancer, rheumatoid arthritis	107	100	83	84	89	87	0.21	0.22	\$ 48.27	\$ 50.60	4.83%
502500	5-HT3 RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS	Nausea and vomiting	183	178	90	85	101	92	0.19	0.21	\$ 153.35	\$ 168.57	9.93%
301000	GROWTH HORMONE	Growth in children	337	337	81	86	87	95	0.21	0.21	\$ 1,914.52	\$ 2,129.73	11.24%
905599	TOPICAL STEROID COMBINATIONS	Skin inflammation	116	111	110	87	115	89	0.16	0.22	\$ 44.97	\$ 57.97	28.91%
581200	MODIFIED CYCLICS	Depression	53	53	65	88	65	81	0.31	0.24	\$ 28.74	\$ 24.35	-15.27%
591530	DIBENZOTHIAZEPINES	Schizophrenia	204	116	194	89	204	93	0.05	0.21	\$ 57.76	\$ 57.61	-0.26%
994040	MACROLIDE IMMUNOSUPPRESSANTS	Organ transplant	244	229	88	90	99	98	0.19	0.19	\$ 460.92	\$ 421.40	-8.57%
868020	OPHTHALMIC ANTIALLERGIC	Itchy, watery eyes	72	73	85	91	82	85	0.23	0.22	\$ 32.13	\$ 32.51	1.18%
503099	ANTIEMETIC COMBINATIONS	Nausea and vomiting	138	139	91	92	100	100	0.19	0.19	\$ 73.05	\$ 76.33	4.49%
725000	VALPROIC ACID	Epilepsy	81	83	80	93	80	96	0.24	0.21	\$ 39.91	\$ 37.16	-6.89%
661099	NSAIA COMBINATIONS	Pain and inflammation	91	94	86	94	88	94	0.21	0.21	\$ 41.36	\$ 42.98	3.92%
302010	VASOPRESSIN	Bed wetting	174	173	89	95	96	102	0.19	0.19	\$ 127.66	\$ 137.15	7.43%
868070	MISC OPTHALMICS	Miscellaneous eye conditions	269	264	99	96	111	104	0.17	0.18	\$ 593.73	\$ 575.36	-3.09%
121090	ANTIRETROVIRALS - RTI-NON-NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES	HIV, AIDS	248	246	100	97	107	110	0.17	0.17	\$ 433.47	\$ 440.53	1.63%
251500	PROGESTIN CONTRACEPTIVES - INJECTABLE	Contraception	79	76	103	98	95	99	0.19	0.19	\$ 31.86	\$ 31.48	-1.19%
568520	ALPHA 1-ADRENOCEPTOR ANTAGONISTS	Enlargement of Prostate	123	112	104	99	112	105	0.17	0.18	\$ 51.23	\$ 48.00	-6.30%
221000	GLUCOCORTICOSTEROIDS	Rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, skin conditions, transplants, plus others	35	35	92	100	76	78	0.26	0.25	\$ 14.85	\$ 14.68	-1.14%
<b>Top 100 Drug Classes</b>									<b>86.26%</b>	<b>86.78%</b>	<b>\$ 46.73</b>	<b>\$ 49.79</b>	<b>6.55%</b>
<b>Grand Total (All Drug Classes)</b>									<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 42.34</b>	<b>\$ 44.35</b>	<b>4.75%</b>	

**Legend:**

- Net Cost Net cost includes allowable ingredient costs (cost plus markup) plus pharmacy dispensing fee minus plan design controls (e.g., fee caps, co-insurance, etc.)
- GPI Generic Product Indicator: classifies drugs into similar therapy classes
- Therapy Class Name Pharmaceutical name for a specific class of drugs
- Common Indications Familiar name for treating conditions for a Therapy Class of drugs
- # Rxs Rank The rank of therapy classes according to the number of allowable prescriptions (claims) submitted
- Ing Cost Rank The rank of therapy classes according to allowable ingredient costs submitted
- Net Cost Rank The rank of therapy classes according to the net cost of the prescriptions.
- % of Total Net The percentage of net cost of the prescriptions within the therapy class compared to all therapy classes
- Avg Net Cost/Rx Average Net Cost per Prescription: The average net cost of all the prescriptions within the therapy class
- % Change in Avg Net Cost/Rx The percentage of net cost change for the prescriptions within a therapy class comparing the two data periods



**Therapy Class Ranking (Top 100 Ranked by Prescription Cost)**  
**Prescriptions Filled from 01/2003 through 12/2003**  
**Quebec Claims**

GPI	Therapy Class Name	Common Indications	# Rxs Rank 2003	Rx Cost Rank 2003	Net Cost Rank 2003	% of Total Net 2003	Avg Net Cost/Rx 2003
394000	HMG COA REDUCTASE INHIBITORS	High cholesterol	1	1	1	9.2	\$ 67.48
492700	PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS	Ulcers, reflux	9	2	2	5.17	\$ 74.14
581600	SELECTIVE SEROTONIN REUPTAKE INHIBITORS	Depression	5	3	3	4.56	\$ 54.97
340000	CALCIUM BLOCKERS	High blood pressure, angina	15	4	4	3.01	\$ 50.72
583000	MISC. ANTIDEPRESSANTS	Depression	14	5	5	2.98	\$ 49.60
361000	ACE INHIBITORS	High blood pressure, heart failure	7	6	6	2.91	\$ 38.29
661005	CYCLOOXYGENASE 2 (COX-2) INHIBITORS	Arthritis, pain, and inflammation	12	7	7	2.71	\$ 43.81
999000	NOT CLASSIFIED	Diabetic supplies, compounding chemicals	17	8	8	2.5	\$ 52.43
259900	COMBINATIONS OC'S	Prevention of pregnancy	2	9	10	1.96	\$ 16.94
624030	MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AGENTS	Multiple sclerosis	157	10	9	2.03	\$ 1,392.99
361500	ANGIOTENSIN II RECEPTOR ANTAGONIST	High blood pressure	18	11	11	1.84	\$ 43.52
240000	ESTROGENS	Menopausal symptoms, osteoporosis	3	12	12	1.58	\$ 14.48
674060	SELECTIVE SEROTONIN AGONISTS 5-HT(1)	Migraines	44	13	13	1.56	\$ 93.87
444000	STEROID INHALANTS	Asthma	31	14	15	1.4	\$ 60.72
332000	BETA BLOCKERS CARDIO-SELECTIVE	High blood pressure, angina	10	15	14	1.41	\$ 20.24
259920	TRIPHASIC OC'S	Prevention of pregnancy	6	16	17	1.27	\$ 16.35
300420	BISPHOSPHONATES	Osteoporosis	33	17	16	1.32	\$ 59.54
442099	ADRENERGIC COMBINATIONS	Asthma	53	18	19	1.21	\$ 95.95
422000	NASAL STEROIDS	Allergies	22	19	20	1.19	\$ 34.03
726000	MISC. ANTICONVULSANTS	Epilepsy	38	20	18	1.22	\$ 65.23
661000	NSAIA'S	Pain and inflammation	16	21	21	1.14	\$ 20.63
50000	FLUOROQUINOLONES	Antibiotic-treatment of infection	34	22	22	1.11	\$ 51.75
369940	ANGIOTENSIN II RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS & THIAZIDES	High blood pressure	27	23	23	1.11	\$ 43.35
35000	CLARITHROMYCIN	Antibiotic-treatment of infection	39	24	25	1.02	\$ 56.52
260000	PROGESTINS	With estrogen replacement to prevent endometrial cancer	13	25	24	1.03	\$ 16.86
392000	FIBRIC ACID DERIVATIVES	High cholesterol	37	26	26	0.98	\$ 50.84
651000	NARCOTIC AGONISTS	Pain	32	27	27	0.97	\$ 42.96
276070	THIAZOLIDINEDIONES	Diabetes	64	28	28	0.88	\$ 98.34
905500	CORTICOSTEROIDS - TOPICAL	Itchy, inflamed skin	19	29	31	0.73	\$ 17.31
281000	THYROID HORMONES	Thyroid replacement	4	30	32	0.71	\$ 6.86
662900	ETANERCEPT (ANTI-TNF AGENT)	Rheumatoid arthritis	206	31	29	0.77	\$ 1,112.67
22000	CEPHALOSPORINS - 2ND GENERATION	Antibiotic-treatment of infection	52	32	37	0.69	\$ 50.14
571000	BENZODIAZEPINES	Epilepsy, sedation	11	33	33	0.71	\$ 10.39
442010	BETA ADRENERGICS	Asthma	21	34	34	0.7	\$ 18.71
121099	ANTIRETROVIRAL COMBINATIONS	HIV, AIDS	183	35	30	0.74	\$ 741.61
525000	INFLAMMATORY BOWEL AGENTS	Crohn's disease and inflammatory bowel disease	71	36	35	0.7	\$ 90.06
272500	BIGUANIDES	Diabetes	23	37	36	0.69	\$ 21.67
34000	AZITHROMYCIN	Antibiotic-treatment of infection	43	38	39	0.66	\$ 38.67
591570	THIENBENZODIAZEPINES	Schizophrenia	90	39	38	0.67	\$ 122.30
900500	ACNE PRODUCTS	Acne	54	40	40	0.62	\$ 49.01
525050	TUMOUR NECROSIS FACTOR INHIBITOR (Infliximab)	Rheumatoid arthritis, crohn's disease	312	41	41	0.6	\$ 3,247.47
624000	MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AGENTS	Multiple sclerosis	227	42	42	0.59	\$ 1,177.06
824010	ERYTHROPOIETINS	Anemia	179	43	43	0.59	\$ 557.20



**Therapy Class Ranking (Top 100 Ranked by Prescription Cost)**  
**Prescriptions Filled from 01/2003 through 12/2003**  
**Quebec Claims**

GPI	Therapy Class Name	Common Indications	# Rxs Rank 2003	Rx Cost Rank 2003	Net Cost Rank 2003	% of Total Net 2003	Avg Net Cost/Rx 2003
824015	GRANULOCYTE COLONY-STIMULATING FACTOR (G-CSF)	Low white blood cells	237	44	44	0.52	\$ 1,176.11
941000	DIAGNOSTIC REAGENTS	Diagnosis of diseases	75	45	46	0.49	\$ 68.30
851500	PLATELET AGGREGATION INHIBITORS	Prevention of harmful blood clots	87	46	45	0.49	\$ 84.79
249930	ESTROGEN & PROGESTIN	Menopausal symptoms, osteoporosis	45	47	47	0.45	\$ 27.58
614000	MISC. STIMULANTS	Attention deficit disorder	47	48	50	0.43	\$ 27.94
213000	ANTIMETABOLITES	Cancer, rheumatoid arthritis	73	49	48	0.44	\$ 60.51
721000	BENZODIAZEPINES	Epilepsy, sedation	24	50	49	0.43	\$ 14.30
124050	HERPES AGENTS - PURINE ANALOGUES	Genital herpes, shingles, chickenpox	92	51	51	0.42	\$ 79.28
602040	NON-BENZODIAZEPINE - GABA-RECEPTOR MODULATORS	Insomnia	40	52	53	0.42	\$ 23.55
249915	ESTROGENS & ANTI-ANDROGENS	Acne, hirsutism	49	53	56	0.41	\$ 27.62
40000	TETRACYCLINES	Antibiotic-treatment of infection	58	54	55	0.41	\$ 38.33
231000	ANDROGENS	Low testosterone levels, osteoporosis, breast cancer	104	55	52	0.42	\$ 98.97
217000	ANTINEOPLASTICS MISC.	Cancer, hepatitis, multiple sclerosis	194	56	54	0.41	\$ 502.94
641000	SALICYLATES	Pain and inflammation	8	57	57	0.41	\$ 5.50
445050	LEUKOTRIENE RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS	Asthma	88	58	58	0.4	\$ 68.17
331000	BETA BLOCKERS NON-SELECTIVE	High blood pressure, angina	50	59	59	0.39	\$ 26.84
582000	TRICYCLIC AGENTS	Depression	26	60	60	0.38	\$ 14.31
12000	AMPICILLINS	Antibiotic-treatment of infection	30	61	64	0.37	\$ 15.38
272000	SULFONYLUREAS	Diabetes	35	62	61	0.38	\$ 19.26
271040	HUMAN INSULIN	Diabetes	59	63	62	0.38	\$ 35.83
376000	THIAZIDES AND THIAZIDE-LIKE DIURETICS	High blood pressure	20	64	63	0.38	\$ 9.67
114070	TRIAZOLES	Fungal infections	60	65	65	0.37	\$ 35.70
581200	MODIFIED CYCLICS	Depression	46	66	68	0.36	\$ 22.95
214050	LHRH ANALOGS	Prostate cancer, endometriosis	219	67	67	0.36	\$ 626.06
994030	INOSINE MONOPHOSPHATE DEHYDROGENASE INHIBITORS	Immunosuppressant, transplant	182	68	66	0.37	\$ 351.58
725000	VALPROIC ACID	Epilepsy	63	69	72	0.35	\$ 35.98
659910	CODEINE COMBINATIONS	Pain	28	70	71	0.35	\$ 13.98
301000	GROWTH HORMONE	Growth in children	246	71	69	0.35	\$ 856.02
751000	CENTRAL MUSCLE RELAXANTS	Muscle spasticity	48	72	73	0.33	\$ 22.17
994040	MACROLIDE IMMUNOSUPPRESSANTS	Organ transplant	181	73	70	0.35	\$ 330.22
369918	ACE INHIBITORS & THIAZIDES	High blood pressure, heart failure	66	74	74	0.32	\$ 38.01
389000	ANAPHYLAXIS THERAPY AGENTS	Severe allergic reactions	131	75	76	0.31	\$ 109.72
590700	BENZISOXAZOLES	Schizophrenia	89	76	75	0.31	\$ 53.82
568520	ALPHA 1-ADRENOCEPTOR ANTAGONISTS	Enlargement of Prostate	80	77	77	0.29	\$ 44.95
492000	H-2 ANTAGONISTS	Ulcers, reflux, heartburn	69	78	80	0.28	\$ 35.79
591530	DIBENZOTHIAZEPINES	Schizophrenia	96	79	81	0.28	\$ 53.53
019900	PENICILLIN COMBINATIONS	Antibiotic-treatment of infection	81	80	84	0.27	\$ 41.69
215340	ANTINEOPLASTIC - PROTEIN-TYROSINE KINASE INHIBITORS	Cancer	357	81	78	0.29	\$ 3,240.33
580300	ALPHA-2 RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS (TETRACYCLICS)	Depression	84	82	83	0.27	\$ 44.58
121045	ANTIRETROVIRALS - PROTEASE INHIBITORS	HIV, AIDS	216	83	79	0.28	\$ 478.39
994020	CYCLOSPORINE ANALOGS	Organ transplant	162	84	82	0.27	\$ 205.84
110000	ANTIFUNGALS	Fungal infections	135	85	85	0.26	\$ 99.21
791099	CALCIUM COMBINATIONS	Osteoporosis	29	86	86	0.25	\$ 10.40

