



Pharma-care and disability

As Canada considers national pharma-care, Dr. Shikha Gupta has recently highlighted the special situation of people with disabilities regarding the cost of prescription drugs. Using a national sample of 160 people with spinal cord injuries, she has shown that despite having insurance for prescriptions drugs, out-of-pocket costs, like co-payments, dispensing fees and deductibles, are 5x higher than the national average. These costs can amount to hundreds or even thousands of dollars a month. Furthermore, they are layered on top of other health- and disability-related costs, such as adaptive equipment, mobility aids, or continence supplies. One potentially disastrous effect of these excess costs is the tendency to ration prescription medications by taking fewer than prescribed, or taking them at longer intervals than recommended. For additional information on the unique implications of pharma-care for people with disabilities, [click here](#) to see several publications from this study.



A vision of Canada where people with disabilities enjoy full participation and citizenship, supported by a coherent framework of legislation, regulation and programs.