

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 31 May 2011

Question: E11- 526

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: TARGIN – SAVINGS AND CLINICAL EVIDENCE

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Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) There would be Medicare savings, wouldn't there be, due to a reduction in opiate-induced constipation, which would result in few GP and specialist consultations as well as fewer hospital procedures for the most severely constipated?
- b) Would you take on notice what clinical evidence was used in relation to making that decision?

Answer:

- a) Details of costs or savings of Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing measures considered by the Cabinet, are Cabinet-in-Confidence. They do, however, include the net cost to the Australian Government, taking into account PBS, Department of Veterans Affairs, Medicare Australia, and where appropriate, Medical Benefits Scheme impacts.
- b) Clinical evidence taken into account by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) in making its recommendations and subsequently used in decision making is summarised in the PBAC Public Summary Document, and are publically available via the Department of Health and Ageing's website at:
<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/pbac-psd-oxycodone-hydrochloride-nov10>