

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-072

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Deferrals

Written Question on Notice

Senator Coonan asked:

Specify the scientific or medical advice received by the Government that evidences the equivalent drugs for each of the deferred items:

- Duodart (dutasteride with tamsulosin hydrochloride)
- Invega Sustenna (paliperidone palmitate)
- Targin (oxycodone/naloxone)
- Symbicort (budesonide with formoterol)
- Botox (botulinum toxin type A)
- Fragmin (dalteparin sodium)
- Synarel (nafarelin)

Answer:

In making decisions on listing medicines and vaccines on the PBS and National Immunisation Program, the Government relies on the recommendations of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, as reflected in the Public Summary Documents (PSDs), which generally include information on therapeutically similar drugs to those in each submission. The PSDs are publically available via the Department of Health and Ageing's website at:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/public-summary-documents-by-product>