

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016, 10 February 2016

Ref No: SQ16-000035

OUTCOME: 2 - Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: Delisting of certain PBS Over the Counter Medicines

Type of Question: Hansard Page 110, 10 February 2016

Senator: Gallagher, Katy

Question:

Can you please provide some examples where the cost of some PBS listed medicines (which are also available over the counter) including to patients, is well above the cost of what these medicines could be purchased for over the counter?

Answer:

Examples of Pharmaceutical benefits Scheme (PBS) listed medicines where the over the counter price is below the PBS concessional co-payment, assuming the \$1.00 co-payment discount was applied:

Medicine	Dispensed Price	Concessional Co-payment (\$1 discount)	Available Over The Counter Price	Source
Aspirin, Tablet 100 mg	\$11.68	\$5.20	\$2.99	Chemist Warehouse, 24/02/2016
Aspirin, Tablet, dispersible, 300 mg	\$11.94	\$5.20	\$2.99	Chemist Warehouse, 24/02/2016
Paracetamol, Tablet 500 mg	\$12.07	\$5.20	\$1.99	Home Pharmacy, 25/02/2016
Paracetamol, Oral liquid 240 mg per 5 mL, 200 mL	\$14.12	\$5.20	\$4.69	Chemist Warehouse, 24/02/2016

Medicine	Internet Link
Aspirin, Tablet 100 mg	http://www.chemistwarehouse.com.au/Buy/65066/Mayne-Aspirin-100mg-112-Tablets
Aspirin, Tablet, dispersible, 300 mg	https://www.chemistwarehouse.com.au/Buy/14885/Solprin-300mg-Dispersible-Tablets-96
Paracetamol, Tablet 500 mg	http://www.homepharmacy.com.au/products/products_view.cfm?ProductID=29947
Paracetamol, Oral liquid 240 mg per 5 mL, 200 mL	https://www.chemistwarehouse.com.au/Buy/6989/Panamax-240-Elixir-200mL-Prescription-Only (The link says prescription only but it is available over the counter)