

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 19 October 2011

Question: E11-450

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: PHARMACEUTICALS AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

Written Question on Notice

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

- a) Did the Government consult with the company or the industry or consumer representatives before sending this medicine for review?
- b) How many patients would benefit from this medicine if it was listed?

Answer:

The Department is assuming that Senator Fierravanti-Wells' questions are referring to the extension to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing of dabigatran (Pradaxa[®]) for the treatment of atrial fibrillation.

- a) In commissioning the review of the use of anticoagulation therapies in Australia, the Government is acting upon advice received from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC). The full minutes of the PBAC's consideration of dabigatran were provided to the company on 20 May 2011 as per usual PBAC timeframes, and the PBAC's Public Summary Document was published on the Department of Health and Ageing's website on 1 July 2011.
- b) The detailed costing of the proposed extension to the PBS listing of Pradaxa contains Cabinet-In-Confidence information.