

Fewer treatment options for patients if Canada adopts New Zealand's prescription drug policies.

Description

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A national pharmacare scheme similar to the system used to control pharmaceutical costs in New Zealand has been suggested for Canada. While the New Zealand system has reduced costs, it also restricts access to important medicines. The objective of this analysis is to compare the comprehensiveness of Canadian provincial public drug plan benefit lists with the New Zealand national formulary by examining the listing status of a range of existing and recently approved drugs for a wide variety of disorders.