

**THE ASSOCIATION
QUÉBÉCOISE
DES PHARMACIENS
PROPRIÉTAIRES^{AQPP}
PRODUCED THIS LEAFLET
TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND
THE PRICING STRUCTURE
OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS
IN QUEBEC PHARMACIES.**

**THESE FEW ELEMENTS EXPLAIN WHY PRICES VARY DEPENDING
ON WHETHER A PATIENT IS ON A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE DRUG INSURANCE
PLAN AND HOW THESE SAME PRICES CAN VARY FROM ONE PHARMACY
TO ANOTHER.**

GENERAL RULES

IF YOU HAVE A PRIVATE DRUG INSURANCE PLAN

In accordance with the *Competition Act*, the total price of a prescription drug cannot be agreed upon between private pharmacies. Such agreement to fix prices is not allowed.

THE TOTAL PRICE OF THE DRUG INCLUDES:

1. The cost of the medicinal substance (set by the government).
2. An amount intended to cover:
 - The professional services provided by the pharmacist;
 - The pharmacy's operating costs (cost of labour, rent, etc.).

The pharmacist determines this amount based on services rendered and pharmacy operating expenses: *a competitive amount reflecting the economic reality of the pharmacy.*

IF YOU'RE INSURED THROUGH THE PUBLIC PRESCRIPTION DRUG INSURANCE PLAN

(ADMINISTERED BY THE RAMQ)

The total price of a given prescription drug is the same in all pharmacies, as the *Competition Act* does not apply to government programs.

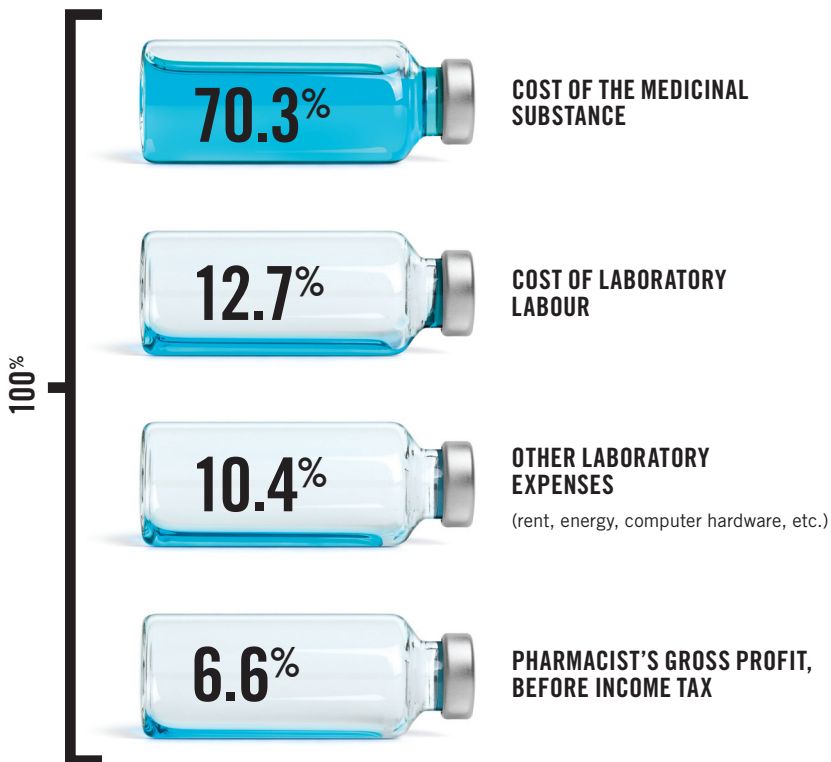
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1. The cost of the medicinal substance (set by the government).
2. An amount intended to cover:
 - The professional services provided by the pharmacist;
 - The pharmacy's operating costs (cost of labour, rent, etc.).

The pharmacist must bill his services in accordance with set rules and *rates imposed by the government and not reflecting the economic reality of the pharmacy.*

REGARDLESS OF THE TOTAL PRICE OF THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG, THE AMOUNT YOU MUST PAY DEPENDS ON THE RULES OF YOUR DRUG INSURANCE PLAN.

WHEN YOU BUY A PRESCRIPTION DRUG, WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



*AQPP's 2012 economic survey
National average*



WATCH THE VIDEO

THE PHARMACIST'S ROLE

Your pharmacist is not an insurance plan manager. His job is to provide the drugs that you are prescribed and to advise you as to their optimal use. He answers your health-related questions, informs you and guides you throughout your drug therapy to ensure you get better.

A HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL

Your relationship with your pharmacist is above all based on trust. Choose him on the basis of the quality of services he offers and have all your prescriptions filled at the same pharmacy. This way, your pharmacist will be able to do a better follow-up on the progress of your drug therapy.



QUESTIONS

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR DRUG BILL?

**If you are insured by
a private drug insurance plan:**

Speak directly to your insurer. They can answer all your questions.

**If you are insured under
the Public Drug Insurance Plan:**

Speak directly to the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ).

RÉGIE DE L'ASSURANCE MALADIE DU QUÉBEC (RAMQ)

CUSTOMER SERVICE

1-800-561-9749

www.ramq.gouv.qc.ca

ME AND MY PHARMACIST.CA



ASSOCIATION QUÉBÉCOISE
DES PHARMACIENS PROPRIÉTAIRES