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Title	The impact of formulary introduction in a large Canadian private drug plan: an interrupted time series analysis
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<b>Reviewer 1</b>	Raisa Deber
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General comments (author response in bold)	<p>The manuscript deals with a very important subject. However, as the authors note in their section on limitations, their data looked only at the drug claims made to the private insurance plan. As such, the conclusions seem somewhat overstated. The changes may indeed have reduced spending by that drug plan, but it is possible that this represented a cost shifting if people still bought the drugs and paid for them out-of-pocket or through another plan, and/or were harmful to health if they avoided needed drugs. On the other hand, the authors do note (on page 12) that the largest declines in use included those with the potential for addiction or not recommended for long-term continuous use, and "those not therapeutically or economically superior to alternatives". One possibility might be if they could see whether there was a corresponding increase in the superior alternatives? Also, what does the CIHI data show about total expenditures in BC (and what proportion of the population is covered by this plan)? At any rate, the paper might be clearer if they indicated that their analysis found that there were major reductions in expenditures by that plan, rather than imply that there was an overall decrease.</p> <p><b>Please see our response to the Editors, Point 2. Regarding the CIHI data, this plan covered 66,000 people, so would be unlikely to make a detectable difference in overall spending in BC (popn. ~4.5 million).</b></p>