

Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors): List of the provincial databases and ethics approvals for each site

Site	Databases					Ethics
	Provincial health insurance registry	Physician service claims	Prescription drug claims	Emergency department records	Hospital discharge abstracts	
British Columbia	Client Roster Information (Client Registry System / Enterprise Master Patient Index)	Medical Services Plan Payment Information	PharmaNet	NA	DAD	Clinical Research Ethics Board, University of British Columbia
Alberta	Population Registry	Practitioner Claims	Pharmaceutical Information Network Dispenses	Ambulatory Care Classification System File (including Emergency Department visits and Day Procedures)	DAD	Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board at the University of Calgary
Saskatchewan	Person Health Registration System	Medical Services Billing	Prescription Drug Plan Historical Claims	National Ambulatory Care Reporting System	CIHI Discharge Abstract Database	Biomedical Research Ethics Board, University of Saskatchewan.
Manitoba	Manitoba Health Insurance Registry Database	Medical Services Database	Drug Program Information Network	NA	Hospital Abstracts User Manual Database (prior to April 1, 2004) DAD/Manitoba Abstract Data Elements Database (since April 1, 2004)	Health Research Ethics Board, University of Manitoba
Ontario	OHIP Registered Persons Database	OHIP Claims History Database	Ontario Drug Benefit Plan Database	CIHI National Ambulatory Care Reporting System	CIHI Discharge Abstract Database	Ethics exemption*
Quebec	RAMQ - Information personne assurée RAMQ - Période d'admissibilité - assurance médicament	RAMQ - Services médicaux	RAMQ - Services pharmaceutiques	NA	† MED-ECHO - Séjours hospitaliers	Comité d'éthique de la recherché du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal
Nova Scotia	Insured patient registry	MSI physician billings	Pharmacare	MSI physician billings	CIHI DAD	Health Science Research Ethics Board

Abbreviations: NA: not applicable; DAD: Discharge Abstract Data; CIHI: Canadian Institute for Health Information; OHIP: Ontario Health Insurance Plan; RAMQ: Régie de l'assurance maladie; Med-Echo: Maintenance et Exploitation des Données pour l'Étude de la Clientèle Hospitalière; MSI: Medical Services Insurance

*The use of data in this project was authorized under section 45 of Ontario's Personal Health Information Protection Act, which does not require review by a Research Ethics Board.

† The DAD is used across Canada, except for in QC.