

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 17 & 19 October 2012

Question: E12-330

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: High Cost Drug Listings

Type of Question: Hansard Page 107, 17 October 2012

Number of pages: 2

Senator: Senator Di Natale

Question:

In 2011-12 which medicine over \$10 million had the longest delay to listing?

Answer:

Cetuximab (Erbix[®]) for the treatment of colorectal cancer was listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) on 1 September 2011 at a cost of around \$272.9 million over five years. The time from the date of notification by the Department of Health and Ageing to the sponsor that pricing is agreed, to Cabinet consideration, was 8 months. In relation to the PBS listing of cetuximab, it was a unique case as it also required funding for the KRAS (a type of colon cancer testing) genetic test through the Medical Benefits Schedule, and the company did not make an application for the KRAS test until after the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee recommendation.