



for health and social care



Prescriptions Dispensed in the Community Statistics for 1997 to 2007: England

This bulletin presents a summary of prescriptions dispensed in the community in England. The statistics cover all prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists, appliance contractors and dispensing doctors, as well as prescriptions for items personally administered in general practices. The bulletin highlights recent changes and the main trends between 1997 and 2007. Detailed definitions of terms used in the bulletin are set out at page 16.

Findings in 2007:

- The net ingredient cost of all prescriptions dispensed increased by 2.1 per cent to £8,372.7 million; a decrease of 0.7 per cent in real terms on 2006 and an increase of 49.5 per cent in real terms over 1997
- 796 million prescription items were dispensed; an increase of 5.9 per cent on 2006 and 59.2 per cent over 1997
- The average net ingredient cost per prescription item was £10.51; a decrease of 3.5 per cent or 6.3 per cent in real terms on 2006. The net ingredient cost per item in 1997 was £8.73
- The leading BNF Chapter in terms of prescription items dispensed and net ingredient cost is the Cardiovascular System
- The leading BNF Section in terms of prescription items dispensed is Hypertension and Heart Failure
- The leading BNF Section in terms of net ingredient cost is Drugs used in Diabetes
- 82.6 per cent of all prescription items were written generically
- There were, on average 15.6 prescription items dispensed per head of population compared to 14.8 in 2006 and 10.3 in 1997
- The elderly received 42.4 items per head in 2007 compared to 22.3 in 1997
- 88.6 per cent of all prescription items dispensed were free to patients

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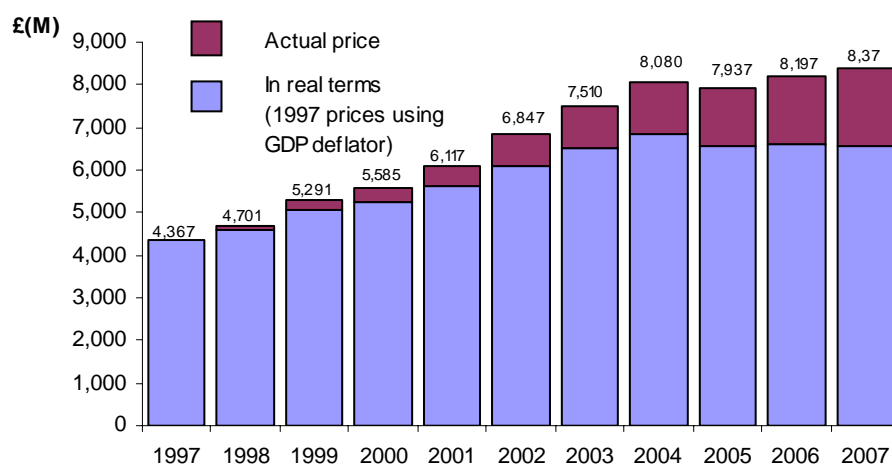
Introduction

1. The statistics included in this bulletin are derived from the NHS Business Services Authority's Prescription Pricing Division (NHSBSA (PPD)) system for reimbursing contractors for dispensing medicines and dressings and appliances in the community. See Sources, from paragraph 62 onwards for full details.

Number and net ingredient cost of prescriptions

2. This year has seen an increase in expenditure on medicines of 2.1 per cent over 2006. Over the last ten years the annual growth has ranged from -1.8 per cent to 12.5 per cent.
3. **Table 1** gives details of the number of prescriptions, the total net ingredient cost (NIC) of prescriptions, the average net ingredient cost per prescription item and the number of prescription items per head of population from 1997 to 2007. Net ingredient cost figures are also shown in real terms (at 1997 prices calculated by using GDP Deflator - see Definitions, paragraph 69). Percentage increases are shown year-on-year from 1997 to 2007. Trends in net ingredient cost in actual and 1997 terms are shown in **Figure 1**.
4. The main features are:
 - The number of prescription items increased by 44 million from 752 million in 2006 to 796 million in 2007, an increase of 5.9 per cent
 - Between 2006 and 2007, the net ingredient cost of prescription items dispensed rose by £176 million, (2.1 per cent) to £8,372.7 million. In the previous year, there had been an increase of 3.3 per cent.
 - The average net ingredient cost per item fell from £10.90 in 2006 to £10.51 in 2007
 - The number of prescription items per head increased from 14.8 in 2006 to 15.6 in 2007, an increase of 5.2 per cent (using revised population estimates based on the 2001 Census)

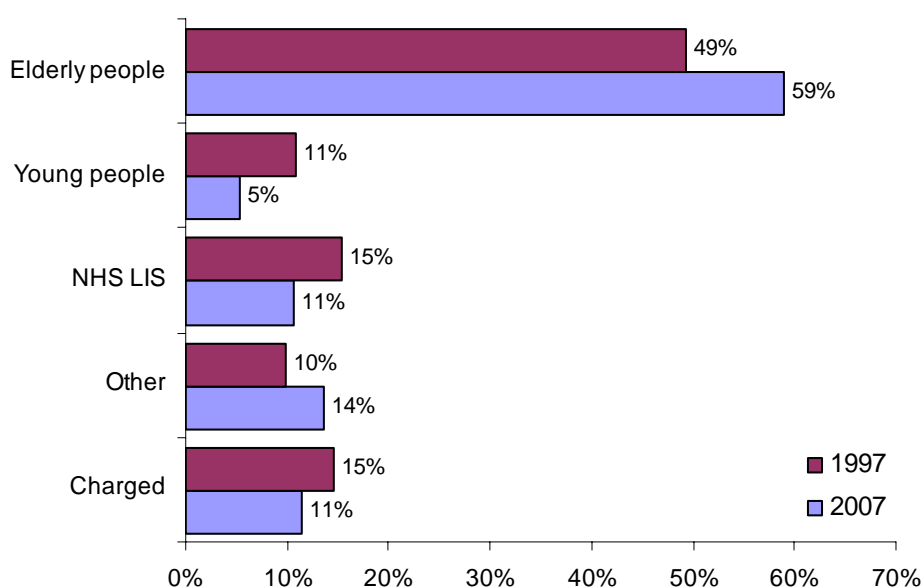
Figure 1 Net ingredient cost (£ millions), 1997 to 2007



Free and charged prescriptions

5. Prescriptions are subject to a prescription charge but around 50 per cent of the population are eligible for free prescriptions. The groups eligible for free prescriptions are described in paragraph 85. All items personally administered by doctors and all contraceptives are free.
6. In the past, the analyses of free and charged prescriptions have been available only for prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists and appliance contractors. These analyses were extended from October 2000 to include prescriptions dispensed by dispensing doctors. From 2001, data is shown on the new basis.
7. In **Figure 2**, percentage shares by patient charge-paying status are shown for 1997 and 2007 for community pharmacists and appliance contractors only. ('Charged' includes those items covered by pre-payment certificates). **Table 2** gives details of numbers of prescription items and net ingredient cost over the period 1997 to 2007 for charged and free prescriptions, showing the main non-charged categories. **Table 3** provides more detail for 2006 and 2007 for all items dispensed to exemption groups.

Figure 2 Percentage shares by charge paying status of all prescription items dispensed by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, 1997 and 2007

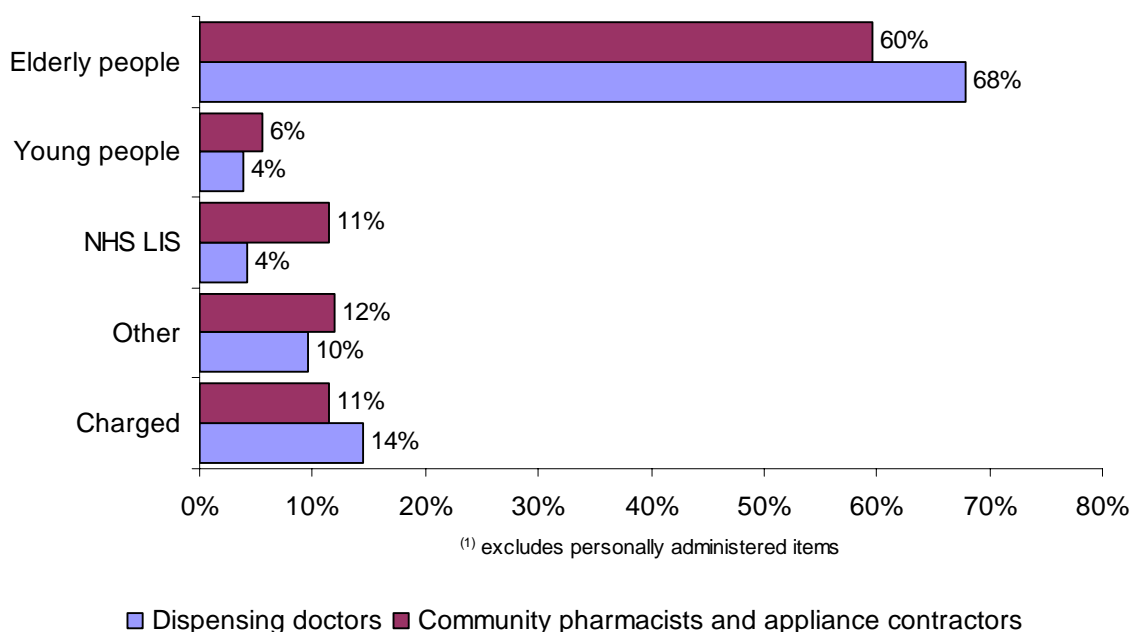


8. Between 2006 and 2007, the number of charged prescription items (including those covered by pre-payment certificates) rose from 90.2 million to 90.8 million. The number of free items (including no charge contraceptives and personally administered items) rose from 661.7 million to 705.5 million, an increase of 6.6 per cent. Free items represented 88.6 per cent of all items dispensed, an increase on 2006 (88.0 per cent).

9. **Table 4** and **Figure 3** show the breakdown of prescription items into charged prescriptions and the main categories of exemption for dispensing doctors. (Personally administered items are all free and are excluded). Also shown for comparison purposes are the figures for community pharmacists and appliance contractors. The figures show:

- Elderly people accounted for 59.7 per cent of prescription items dispensed by community pharmacists and appliance contractors and 67.7 per cent of items dispensed by dispensing doctors
- 11.3 per cent of items dispensed by community pharmacists and appliance contractors were for patients qualifying for free prescriptions under the NHS low income scheme (NHS LIS, see paragraph 85); the figure for dispensing doctors was 4.4 per cent
- Chargeable prescriptions (including prescriptions for patients with pre-payment certificates) represent 11.4 per cent of prescription items dispensed by community pharmacists and appliance contractors and 14.4 per cent of those dispensed by dispensing doctors

Figure 3 Percentage of total prescription items (1) dispensed by community pharmacists and appliance contractors and by dispensing doctors, 2007



Average number of prescription items per head by broad age group

10. **Table 5** shows the average number of prescription items per head of population for elderly people, children and others for the years 1997 to 2007. Revised population estimates and projections have been used based on the 2001 Census. This means that figures may be slightly different from those in previous bulletins. The main features in 2007 are:

- Elderly people received more prescription items per head than any other group – 42.4 items on average were dispensed per head to those aged 60 and over. In 2006 this figure was 40.8 per head.
- 3.9 items on average were dispensed per head for children under 16
- The average number of prescriptions per head for persons aged 16-59 was 9.5

Generic prescribing and dispensing

11. The definitions of prescriptions written generically, dispensed generically, and the preparation classes of items are given in paragraphs 75 to 77.

Overall

12. **Table 6** shows the breakdown of prescription items, net ingredient cost and average net ingredient cost per prescription item by preparation class. **Table 7** shows the percentage of items prescribed generically, dispensed/reimbursed as a generic and dispensed/reimbursed as a proprietary, for example because the proprietary was still in patent. Net ingredient cost is also shown for these categories.

13. The main features in 2007 compared with 2006 are:

- The share of prescription items **written generically** increased from 81.8 per cent to 82.6 per cent and the share of the associated net ingredient cost decreased from 71.9 per cent to 71.8 per cent (see paragraph 73)
- The proportion of prescription items **dispensed generically** increased from 62.2 per cent in 2006 to 64.1 per cent in 2007 (see paragraph 74). The share of the associated net ingredient cost decreased from 29.5 per cent to 29.1 per cent.

By BNF chapters

14. **Table 8** shows the level of generic prescribing and dispensing by British National Formulary chapters for 2006 and 2007.

- *Drugs for Infections* had the greatest proportion of prescription items written generically, increasing from 97.2 per cent in 2006 to 97.6 per cent in 2007
- *Immunological products and vaccines* had the lowest proportion of prescription items written generically increasing from 26.0 per cent in 2006 to 29.2 per cent in 2007

Trends by BNF Chapters

Category M

15. The Category M scheme is an arrangement where the net ingredient cost for selected generic formulations is controlled, with the aim of reducing costs overall. The drugs subject to the new arrangements are classified as Category M in Part VIII of the Drug Tariff. The majority of these formulations have fallen in price, although some formulations have increased in price. These changing prices have led to the shifts in the relative positions of drug chapters and sections in the tables within this bulletin.
16. The Prescription Cost Analysis system uses the therapeutic classifications defined in the British National Formulary (BNF) September 2006 edition.
17. **Table 9** shows the number of prescription items, net ingredient cost and the average net ingredient cost per prescription item, for each BNF chapter in 2006 and 2007.
18. **Figures 4, 5 and 6** following focus on the six leading BNF chapters in 2007 in terms of net ingredient cost. The figures cover the net ingredient cost, the number of prescription items and the average net ingredient cost per prescription item. Numbers for 2006 and 2007 are shown as well as the percentage change.
19. The main features in 2007 compared with 2006 are:
 - The six leading BNF chapters (excluding *Dressings and appliances*) in 2007 are the same as in 2006.
 - The six leading chapters accounted for 74.3 per cent of the net ingredient cost and 75.2 per cent of the number of items of all drugs, dressings and appliances.
 - The net ingredient cost of these six chapters combined increased from £6,124 million in 2006 to £6,219 million in 2007, an increase of £95 million or 1.5 per cent. The growth in net ingredient cost overall was 2.1 per cent.
 - The net ingredient cost of two of these chapters fell
 - *Gastro-intestinal system* fell by £85 million or 15.1 per cent
 - *Cardiovascular system chapter* fell by £72 million or 3.8 per cent
 - The number of prescription items for the six leading chapters increased from 561 million in 2006 to 599 million in 2007, an increase of 38 million or 6.7 per cent, compared to 5.9 per cent overall
 - Of the six leading chapters, four show a reduction in the average net ingredient cost per item. The average net ingredient cost per item for the *Gastro-intestinal system* fell by 20.1 per cent from £9.99 to £7.98 and for the *Cardiovascular system* by 10.0 per cent from £8.03 to £7.23. Overall, the average net ingredient cost per item fell by 3.5 per cent from £10.90 to £10.51. Average net ingredient cost per item for the *Respiratory system* rose by 3.2 per cent and for the *Central nervous system* by 2.5 per cent.

Figure 4 Net ingredient cost (£ millions) by leading BNF chapters, 2006 and 2007

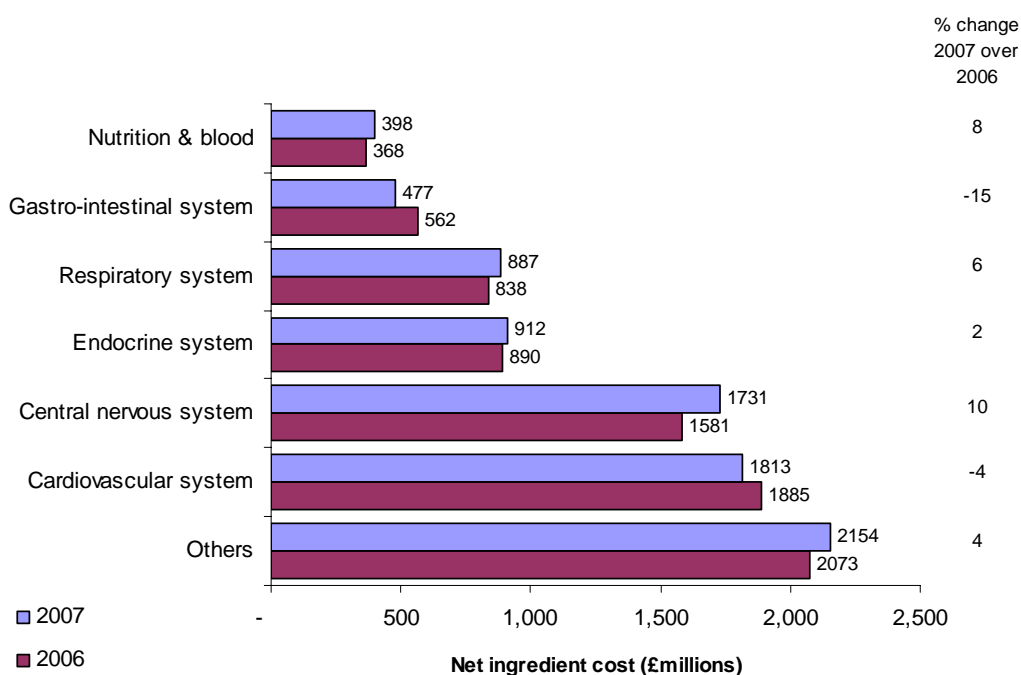


Figure 5 Number of prescription items (millions) by leading BNF chapters, 2006 and 2007

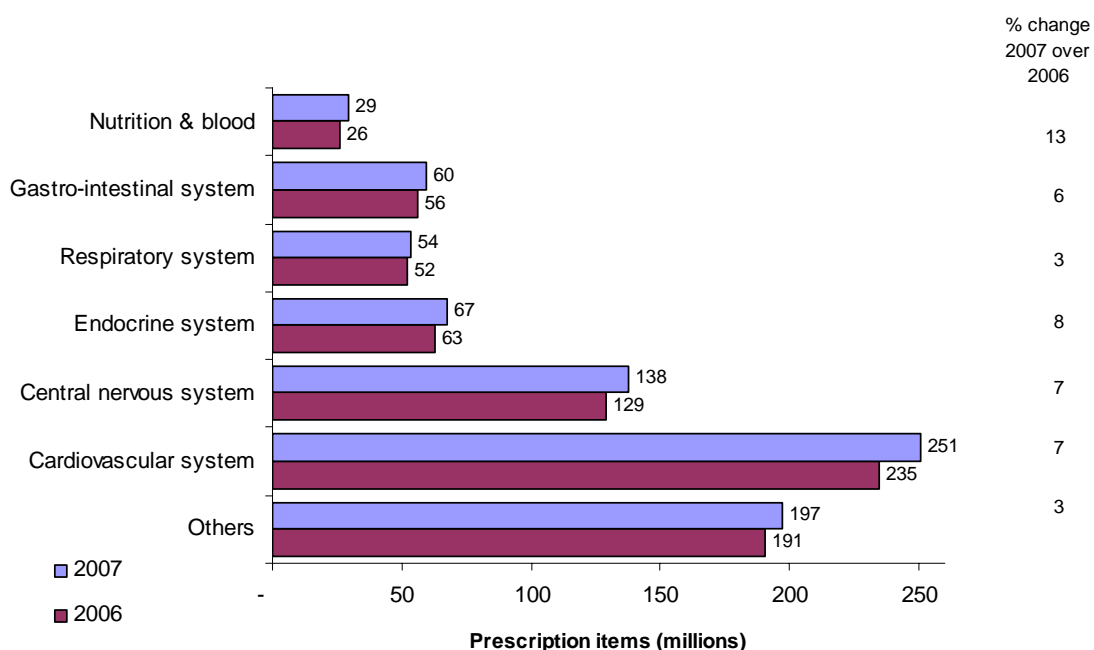
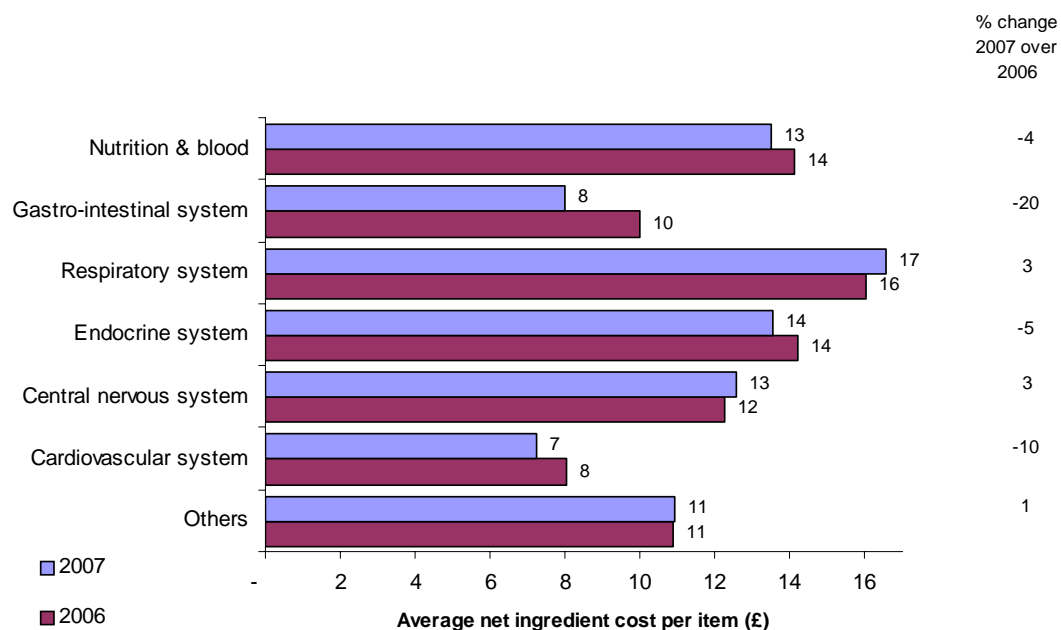


Figure 6 Average net ingredient cost per prescription item (£) by leading BNF chapters, 2006 and 2007



Trends by BNF Sections

20. **Table 10** shows for 2006 and 2007 the number of prescription items and the net ingredient cost for the 20 BNF sections that showed the greatest increase in net ingredient cost between 2006 and 2007.

21. Three of the top four BNF sections in Table 10 are the same as in last year's bulletin. BNF section 9.4 (*Oral Nutrition*) has been replaced by BNF section 4.8 *Antiepileptics*.

22. BNF section 4.10 (*Drugs used in Substance Dependence*), previously outside the top 20 sections, has seen the fifth largest increase in NIC, £25.8 million (30.2 per cent). Items dispensed have increased by 14.9 per cent to 5.8 million. Much of this increase is due to use of *varenicline tartrate*, increasing from 500 items in 2006 to just under 0.5 million items in 2007, with NIC rising to £16.1 million. Increased use of *methadone hydrochloride* and *buprenorphine* accounts for an increase in NIC of £8.5 million.

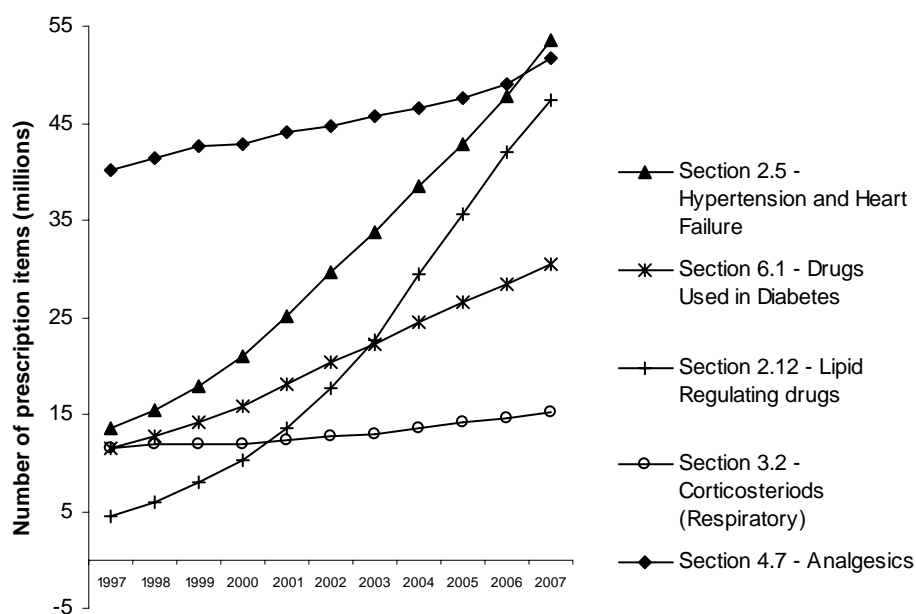
23. There are four other new sections in the top 20 this year. BNF section 6.3 (*Corticosteroids (Endocrine)*) has seen a rise in NIC of 90.5 per cent. Use of *prednisolone* has increased by 6.5 per cent with NIC rising by £10.6 million or 114.1 per cent. *Prednisolone* is included in the Category M scheme (see paragraph 15).

24. BNF section 6.2 (*Thyroid and Antithyroid Drugs*) has seen an increase of 9.4 per cent in items dispensed with NIC rising by 28.6 per cent. Use of *levothyroxine sodium* has increased by 9.6 per cent with NIC, under the Category M scheme, rising 31.3 per cent (£9.8 million) (see paragraph 15).

25. BNF section 7.4 (*Drugs for Genito-Urinary disorders*) has seen an increase in NIC of 4.5 per cent, £7.6 million. Use of *solifenacin* has increased by 74.5 per cent, *sildenafil* by 6.7 per cent and *tadalafil* by 14.8 per cent. Net ingredient cost for the three drugs combined rose by £11.6 million. Use of *tamsulosin hydrochloride* also increased, by 15.4 per cent but NIC fell by £6.2 million.
26. BNF section 11.6 (*Treatment of Glaucoma*) saw a rise in NIC of £6.3 million (7.0 per cent). There was increased use of several drugs (with NIC increasing accordingly) including *bimatoprost* which saw a 33.7 per cent increase in use with NIC increasing by 33.2 per cent (£1.9 million).
27. Three other sections have seen large percentage increases in NIC. BNF section 1.5 (*Chronic bowel disorders*) saw an increase in NIC of 21.6 per cent (£14.7 million) while items dispensed rose by 4.9 per cent. Dispensing of *sulfasalazine* rose by 3.0 per cent but NIC rose by 82.1 per cent (£11.5 million) under the Category M scheme (see paragraph 15). Use of *mesalazine (systemic)* rose by 7.3 per cent with NIC increasing by £2.9 million.
28. BNF section 4.1 (*Hypnotics and Anxiolytics*) saw an increase in NIC of £12.2 million (24.6 per cent) although the number of items dispensed rose by 2.1 per cent. Use of *bupropion hydrochloride* rose by 6.0 per cent with NIC increasing by 27.9 per cent (£1.4 million). For *lorazepam* the number of items dispensed rose by 5.1 per cent and NIC increased by 83.0 per cent (£5.5 million). Both *lorazepam* and *temazepam* had falls in the number of items dispensed but the former saw NIC rise by 92.4 per cent (£3.5 million) and the latter saw NIC rise by 37.0 per cent (£1.7 million). All four of these drugs are included in the Category M scheme (see paragraph 15).
29. BNF section 4.11 (*Drugs for Dementia*) saw an increase of 19.2 per cent in items dispensed and a 19.4 per cent increase in NIC. There was increased use of all the drugs in this section.
30. **Table 11** shows for 2006 and 2007 the number of prescription items, net ingredient cost and average net ingredient cost per item of the 20 BNF sections which had the greatest net ingredient cost in 2007. The top 5 sections are the same as those in the previous year although their order has changed.
31. BNF section 6.1 (*Drugs used in diabetes*) has replaced BNF section 2.12 (*Lipid - Regulating drugs*) as the leading section in terms of NIC. (see paragraph 39).
32. BNF section 2.12 (*Lipid - Regulating drugs*) saw a reduction in NIC of 4.6 per cent (£28.5 million) with the number of items dispensed increasing by 12.6 per cent.
33. BNF section 3.2 (*Corticosteroids (Respiratory)*) and BNF section 4.7 (*Analgesics*) saw increases in NIC of around 10 per cent and BNF section 2.5 (*Hypertension and Heart failure*) saw NIC increase by 1.8 per cent.
34. BNF section 4.3 (*Antidepressant drugs*) has moved up in the order although NIC has fallen by 5.3 per cent.
35. BNF section 2.6 (*Nit, Calc Block & Other Antianginal drugs*) has seen a fall in NIC of 16.9 per cent. (see paragraph 49).

36. BNF section 1.3 (*Antisecretory Drugs and mucosal protectants, formerly Ulcer-healing drugs*) saw a fall in NIC of 30.4 per cent (£107.1 million) (see paragraph 51).
37. There are two new sections in the list of leading BNF sections by NIC. BNF section 4.10 (*Drugs used in Substance Dependence*) saw an increase in NIC of 30.2 per cent (see paragraph 22). BNF section 4.9 (*Drugs used in Parkinsonism and related disorders*) saw NIC increase by 12.1 per cent to £105.4 million. There was increased use of both *pramipexole* and *ropinirole*, with NIC rising by £10 million for both drugs combined.
38. **Figure 7** shows the growth in number of prescription items for the top five BNF sections, by net ingredient cost from **Table 11**, from 1997 to 2007. The cardiovascular areas, BNF sections 2.5 and 2.12, show much greater increases than other therapeutic areas.

Figure 7 Ten-year trends in number of prescription items dispensed for the five BNF sections that had the greatest net ingredient cost in 2007:



Significant changes in 2007

BNF section 6.1 (Drugs used in diabetes)

39. This section, with NIC at £594.1 million, has replaced BNF section 2.12 (*Lipid - Regulating drugs*) as the leading section in terms of NIC. It also has the third highest increase in NIC of all sections, £31.6m (5.6 per cent) (see **Table 10**). The number of items dispensed rose by 6.9 per cent.
40. There has been increased use of insulins, with a shift towards the higher cost human insulins analogues, alongside increased use of oral antidiabetic drugs.
41. Use of *pioglitazone hydrochloride* has increased by 32.5 per cent, with a rise in NIC of 28.7 per cent (£5.5 million). Both *insulin detemir* and the *metformin hydrochloride/rosiglitazone* combination have increases in the number of items dispensed and NIC of over 30 per cent. Use of the *metformin hydrochloride/pioglitazone* combination has risen from 300 items dispensed in 2006 to over 26,000 items dispensed in 2007. NIC has risen from £11,400 to £1 million.
42. *Biphasic insulin lispro*, *biphasic protamine insulin*, *insulin aspart* and *insulin glargine* have all seen increases in use of between 10 and 15 per cent. Their combined NIC has increased by £20.8 million.
43. Use of *metformin*, which is included in the Category M scheme, rose by 11.1 per cent (1.0 million items). NIC rose by 10.4 per cent (£5.0 million).
44. Use of *glucose blood testing reagents* has risen by 0.6 per cent but following a centrally agreed price reduction in November 2006, NIC fell by 6.6 per cent (£9.4 million). A further £5.9 million fall in NIC occurred due to a reduction in the number of items dispensed of *isophane insulin*, *glimepiride* and *biphasic isophane insulin*.

BNF section 3.2 (Corticosteroids - Respiratory)

45. This section has seen the number of items dispensed increase by 4.1 per cent to 15.2 million items. The increase in NIC, £45.8 million, was the largest of any section. This was an increase in NIC of 9.7 per cent (see **Table 10**).
46. Increased use of *fluticasone propionate*, by 9.4 per cent (0.5 million items), raised NIC by 10.8 per cent (£31.6 million).
47. The number of items of *budesonide* dispensed rose by 10.7 per cent with NIC increasing by 13.0 per cent (£12.7 million).
48. *Beclometasone Dipropionate*, under the Category M scheme, had an increase in NIC of 1.8 per cent (£1.5 million) although the number of items dispensed fell by 2.6 per cent.

BNF section 2.6 (Nit, Calc Block & Other Antianginal drugs)

49. This section has seen a fall in NIC of 16.9 per cent. Much of this fall in NIC involves three drugs included in the Category M scheme. *Amlodipine* NIC has fallen by 46.7 per cent (£40.6 million) with items dispensed up by 18.6 per cent. *Isosorbide mononitrate* NIC has fallen by 5.2 per cent (£2.2 million)

and *nifedipine* NIC by 5.2 per cent (£2.4 million).

50. *Felodipine* use increased by 7.1 per cent but NIC decreased by 24.6 per cent (£10.2 million) following expiry of the patent.

BNF section 1.3 (Antisecretory Drugs and other mucosal protectants, formerly Ulcer-healing drugs)

51. This section saw a fall in NIC of 30.4 per cent (£107.1 million) with items dispensed increasing by 3.1 million (10.5 per cent).

52. Use of *lansoprazole* and *omeprazole* has together increased by 4.0 million items and NIC for both drugs combined has fallen by £93.0 million. This follows patent expiry of both *lansoprazole* and *omeprazole* and the availability of cheaper generic formulations, which are included in the Category M scheme. This has resulted in the average net ingredient cost per prescription item for this chapter falling by 18.4 per cent to £9.99 in 2006 and by 20.1 per cent to £7.98 in 2007.

53. There has been a fall in the number of items dispensed for both pantoprazole and rabeprazole sodium, with their combined NIC falling by £9.3 million.

Prescribers

54. The vast majority of the prescription items covered by the analyses in this Bulletin are prescribed by General Medical Practitioners in England. However, prescriptions written by dentists account for 0.6 per cent of items. Prescriptions written in hospitals and dispensed in the community accounted for 0.6 per cent of items. The data used for this report does not distinguish between GPs and other prescribers. Assuming that the proportions of prescriptions written by doctors and nurses are the same as in the ePACT system (an alternative system for analysing prescription data provided by the Prescription Pricing Division which only includes prescriptions written in England and excludes dentists and hospital prescriptions) then 97.6% of prescriptions were written by GPs and 1.2% by nurses or other non-medical prescribers. The proportion of items prescribed by nurses has increased by almost 50 per cent on 2006.

55. Items written by dentists and dispensed in the community totalled 4.6 million in 2007, an increase of 1.9 per cent on the previous year. Of these prescription items, 81.1 per cent are from BNF section 5.1 (*Antibacterial drugs*) and 10.4 per cent from BNF 12.3 (*Drugs acting on the oropharynx*).

56. Prescriptions written in hospitals (including mental health trusts and drug addiction clinics) and dispensed in the community numbered 5.0 million, a fall of 3.9 per cent on the previous year. The largest proportion of items is from BNF section 4.10 *Drugs used in substance dependence* (17.5 per cent) and from BNF section 4.3 *Antidepressant drugs* (7.2 per cent). BNF section 4.1 *Hypnotics and Anxiolytics* (6.8 per cent), BNF section 4.2 *Drugs used in psychoses and related disorders* (6.3 per cent) and BNF section 5.1 *Antibacterial drugs* (6.1 per cent), are also significant.

57. Numbers of qualified non-medical prescribers continue to grow steadily - there are now over 12, 000 Nurse Independent Prescribers and over 400 Pharmacist Independent Prescribers. Optometrists will be able to train to become independent prescribers later in 2008.
58. Nurses, pharmacists, optometrists, physiotherapists, chiropodists/ podiatrists and radiographers are able to train as supplementary prescribers. Supplementary prescribers work in partnership with a doctor [or dentist], within an agreed patient-specific Clinical Management Plan.
59. There are also over 26, 000 District Nurses and Specialist Community Public Health Nurses (including Health Visitors) who are trained to prescribe from the Nurse Prescribers' Formulary for Community Practitioners (NPF). The NPF contains dressings, appliances and some medicines for community nursing.
60. Details of prescribing by non-medical prescribers are available in a prescribing monitoring report produced by the Information Centre. This is available at

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/our-services/improving-patient-care/prescribing-support-unit-psu/reports-and-references/reports/psu-prescribing-monitoring-documents>

Detailed data by individual preparations

61. Information on individual preparations is available in a separate publication (see paragraph 90).

Sources and definitions

Sources

62. Statistics in this bulletin are for calendar years. All prescription statistics in this bulletin are based on information systems at the NHS Business Services Authority Prescription Pricing Division (NHSBSA (PPD)). The system used is the Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA), which was introduced in January 1991. This system is based on an analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community, i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by doctors for items personally administered.
63. The analyses are based on all prescriptions dispensed in the community in England. The vast majority are written by General Medical Practitioners in England; however, prescriptions written by nurses, dentists, other non-medical prescribers and hospital doctors are also included provided they were dispensed in the community. Also included are prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man provided they were dispensed in England. The analyses do not include prescriptions dispensed in hospitals, private prescriptions or prescriptions written in England but dispensed outside England.
64. Statistics relating to prescriptions where charges are not paid are based on a sample of 1 in 20 exempt prescription forms. Every 20th form is sampled and the exemption category ticked on the back of the form is recorded. Until September 2000, only patients having their prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists and appliance contractors were required to

complete the back of the prescription form, but from October 2000, this requirement was extended to patients of dispensing doctors. The analyses of non-charged prescriptions in this bulletin include those dispensed by dispensing doctors from 2001 onwards. Table 4 provides a comparison of community pharmacist and appliance contractor prescriptions with those of dispensing doctors (excluding personally administered items which are always free of charge).

65. The resident population, estimated by the Office for National Statistics (ONS), has been used to determine the average number of prescriptions and the average net ingredient cost per head of population. This bulletin uses mid-year resident population estimates and projections based on the 2001 Census which have been revised slightly since last year's bulletin and therefore some figures for prescription items per head in Tables 1 and 5 for the years 1997 to 2006 are different from those published in last year's bulletin.

Definitions

66. Prescribers write prescriptions on a **prescription form**. Each single item written on the form is counted as a **prescription item**.
67. All prescription items attract a professional fee for the dispensing contractor and prior to the introduction of the revised PCA system the number of fees paid was counted rather than the number of items. From 1991, the revised PCA system counts actual items. There are minor differences between the two figures because some prescription items attract more than one fee.
68. The **net ingredient cost** (NIC) refers to the cost (which the dispenser is reimbursed) of the drug before discounts and does not include any dispensing costs or fees. It does not include any adjustment for income obtained where a prescription charge is paid at the time the prescription is dispensed or where the patient has purchased a pre-payment certificate.
69. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a measure of the total flow of goods and services produced by the economy over a specified period. The implied **GDP Deflator** is an index that reflects changes in the general level of prices of goods and services produced in the UK economy. It can be used to deflate a series expressed in current prices such as net ingredient cost in order to strip out the effect of general price movements. This bulletin uses the Treasury GDP deflator.
70. PCA uses the therapeutic classifications defined in the British National Formulary (September 2006 edition in this bulletin). The NHSBSA (PPD) has created additional pseudo BNF chapters, which do not appear in the BNF, for items not included in BNF chapters 1 to 15. The majority of such items are dressings and appliances, which the (NHSBSA (PPD) has classified into four pseudo BNF chapters (20 to 23). The NHSBSA (PPD) has produced a booklet on BNF classifications and the pseudo classifications used. This is available on the internet at:
- http://www.ppa.org.uk/pdfs/BNF_Booklet_2006.doc.pdf
71. The classification of drugs and appliances used by the NHSBSA (PPD) for PCA does not always equate exactly with the BNF. For example, the NHSBSA (PPD) does not include stoma appliances in BNF section 1.8 but classifies them under a pseudo BNF chapter 23.

72. European Community law requires the use of international names for medicinal substances. The Medicines Commission recommended that names of medicinal substances be changed from the **British Approved Name (BAN)** to the **recommended International Non-proprietary Name (rINN)**, where the BAN and rINN differ, by June 2004. A full list of the name changes appears in the introductory pages of the British National Formulary. The Prescription Cost Analysis system has reflected these changes from 2003 onwards.
73. A **generically written prescription** is one that has been written using the recommended International Non-proprietary Name, the British Approved Name, or the scientific name of the active ingredient rather than the brand name. Recommended International Non-proprietary Names are used for most ingredient names since systematic chemical names or other scientific names are too complex or inconvenient for general use.
74. For the purpose of these statistics, **generic dispensing** is defined as occurring where a drug is prescribed **and** available generically and the dispenser is reimbursed at the Drug Tariff price or the price of the generic. **The Drug Tariff (Part VIII)** shows the amount that will be reimbursed by the Department for most generic drugs dispensed against a prescription written generically.
75. Generic prescribing is encouraged and many drugs are now prescribed generically even when they are not available in generic form (principally because the branded product is still in patent). Because of this within the PCA system prescriptions for drugs are classified in four ways:
- **Class 1** - Drugs prescribed **and** available generically and the dispenser is reimbursed at the Drug Tariff price or the price of the generic. It is possible in such circumstances for a branded drug or a parallel import to be dispensed against the prescription
 - **Class 2** - Drugs prescribed generically but because a generic is not available (for example the proprietary is still under patent) a proprietary product or a parallel import has been dispensed
 - **Class 3** - Drugs prescribed and dispensed by proprietary brand name
 - **Class 4** - Dressings and appliances
76. Where a pharmacist has dispensed the generic form of the drug and has been reimbursed at the generic price, the data for the drug dispensed will be recorded against the class 1 (generic) form of the drug in PCA. Where a generic is not available and hence a pharmacist has been reimbursed at proprietary prices for dispensing the proprietary form, the data will be defined as class 2 but recorded in PCA against the class 3 (proprietary) form of the drug.
77. Where a drug is defined as class 2, the prescription items, NIC, etc for it are allocated across the items for all equivalent proprietaries. This is done pro rata on the basis of the number of proprietary prescription items dispensed. "Of which class 2" (Owc2) gives the number of prescription items resulting from this apportionment. There are a small number of preparations that are not linked to equivalent proprietaries that appear separately with a class of 2.

78. Part VIII of the Drug Tariff, published by The Stationery Office and available from the Stationery Office Bookshops, lists the basis for reimbursement for most commonly prescribed generic drugs which are (in most cases) available generically.
79. In some cases, although a generic is available and the pharmacist has been reimbursed at the Drug Tariff price, the pharmacist may have chosen to dispense the equivalent proprietary product. This will, none the less, be recorded against the class 1 form of the drug.
80. For drugs dispensed by doctors, class 2 is not normally used in the PCA system; if a drug is prescribed generically but dispensed by a doctor as a proprietary because the generic is not available, it is recorded as a class 3 - prescribed and dispensed as a proprietary.
81. Reimbursement arrangements allowed a drug to be classified as "Category D" within the Drug Tariff where there was a problem of availability. This enabled pharmacies to be reimbursed at the price they paid. Traditionally less than 1 per cent of prescription items were Category D (around 400,000 per month). However, because of generic drug supply problems, the volume of prescription items that fell within Category D of the Drug Tariff increased substantially in 1999. For example, for October 1999 around 7 million (17 per cent) prescription items were affected. In response to continued high Drug Tariff prices, a statutory maximum price scheme for the main generics was introduced and the Category D arrangement in the Drug Tariff was abolished with effect from August 2000 dispensed prescriptions.
82. When the drug was classified in Category D and a pharmacist dispensed its equivalent proprietary product against a generically written script, then the pharmacist was reimbursed at the branded price and the item was recorded as class 3. This also applied to drugs not included in the Drug Tariff.
83. The procedure used to count "no charge contraceptive prescription data" was changed from 2000. Previously the information was obtained from those prescription forms endorsed on the back of the form as a contraceptive. The new method counts all the items defined as a contraceptive irrespective of what is ticked.
84. The Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme is a voluntary agreement made between the Department of Health and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry. The scheme places some control on the costs of medicines to the NHS and applies to all branded licensed NHS medicines.
85. The groups eligible for free prescriptions and the interpretation of charged prescriptions are shown below for 2007.

Charged prescriptions

These include all prescriptions where:

- a prescription charge is payable at the time the prescription is dispensed
- the patient holds a valid prescription pre-payment certificate purchased in advance from the NHSBSA(PPD) and no further charge is paid at the point of dispensing

Free prescriptions

These are in the following categories

- **Elderly people**, men and women aged 60 and over.
- **Young people**, children under age 16, young people aged 16, 17 and 18 in full time education;
- **Exemption certificate holders**, these are:
 - Pregnant women
 - Women who have given birth in the previous 12 months
 - People with specified medical conditions

These certificates are issued by the NHSBSA(PPD). Prior to 1 October 2002, Health Authorities issued them.

- **War pensioners**, but only in respect of prescriptions for their accepted disablement and if an exemption certificate is held. These certificates are issued by the Service Personnel & Veterans Agency.
- **No declaration / declaration not specific:** If a patient is entitled to free prescriptions, they must tick the appropriate box on the back of the prescription form to say why they do not have to pay and sign the declaration on the prescription form.
 - From April 2005 if they are age exempt and their date of birth is printed on the prescription form, they do not need to sign the declaration. If it is not clear what category applies, the group is shown as **no declaration**. Where the patient has claimed two or more categories, they are classified as **declaration not specific**. The latter includes bulk prescriptions for schools or institutions. From 1 April 1995, the distinction between the categories "no declaration" and "declaration not specific" was not made. In 1998, prescription forms were revised to show separately the different benefits that gave income related entitlement. Prior to this, patients receiving any of the qualifying benefits, all ticked the same box (conditions of entitlement were not changed; only the prescription form). The small number of items prescribed on pre 1998 forms have been recorded as "no declaration /declaration not specific".
- **NHS Low Income Scheme entitlement in respect of:**
 - People and their partners receiving **Income Support**

- People and their partners receiving **Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance**
- Partners aged under 60 of recipients of **Pension Credit Guarantee Credit**
- People and their partners with gross annual income of £15,050 or less receiving from 6 April 2005 (remains at £15,050 from 6 April 2008):
 - Working tax credit with child tax credit
 - Working tax credit which includes a disability or severe disability element
 - Child tax credit and not eligible for Working Tax Credit
- People and their partners who are named on a valid HC2 charges certificate for full help.

Previously the groups included the following which are now included in the above:

- Partners aged under 60 of recipients of Minimum Income Guarantee – up to September 2003.
 - People and their partners receiving Family Credit up to September 1999
 - People and their partners receiving full working families tax credit or maximum credit reduced by a specified amount from October 1999 to 5 April 2004
 - People and their partners receiving Disability Working Allowance up to September 1999
 - People and their partners receiving full Disabled Person's Tax Credit or maximum credit reduced by a specified amount from October 1999 to 5 April 2004
- **Contraceptives:** prescriptions for contraceptives are free and do not attract a prescription charge.
 - **Personally administered items:** these are free of charge. Unlike prescribing doctors who submit claims to the NHSBSA (PPD) only in respect of personally administered items, Dispensing Doctors submit claims for all items dispensed. It is, therefore, not known whether a dispensing doctor has personally administered an item. Items personally administered by dispensing doctors are therefore defined as all items for products that are indicated on the NHSBSA (PPD) drug database as products that **can** be personally administered.

Further information

86. Press enquiries should be made to:

Media Office,
The Information Centre for health and social care,
1, Trevelyan Square, Boar Lane, Leeds, LS1 6AE
Telephone: 0113 2547000 or 07771 996095. Email: media@ic.nhs.uk

87. If you require further details about the statistics in this bulletin, or have comments about the content, contact:

The Information Centre for health and social care,
1, Trevelyan Square, Boar Lane, Leeds LS1 6AE
Telephone: 0845 3006016 Email: prescribing@ic.nhs.uk

88. Further copies of this bulletin are available free on the Internet at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/presdisp97-07

89. The material in this bulletin is Crown copyright but may be reproduced without formal permission or charge for personal or in-house use.

90. A publication listing individual preparations alphabetically within therapeutic class is published annually and provides details of the number of items, the net ingredient cost and the quantity of individual preparations dispensed in the community in England. The latest publication is titled "**Prescription Cost Analysis : England 2007**" and is available free from the Internet at:

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/prescriptions/prescription-cost-analysis-2007>

91. A bulletin describing prescribing taking place within hospitals in England, at both national and Strategic Health Authority level is published annually and is available free from the Internet at:

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/prescriptions/report-of-hospital-prescribing-2006>

92. Information on other Statistical Publications together with other statistical information can be found at:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/index.htm>

and

<http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs>

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Table 1 Number and total net ingredient cost (NIC) of prescription items, average NIC per prescription item and average number of prescription items per head of population, 1997 - 2007

England

Year	Number (million)	Total NIC (£million)		Average NIC per prescription item (£)		Average number of prescription items per head of population
		Actual	At 1997 prices	Actual	At 1997 prices	
1997	500.2	4,367.5	4,367.5	8.73	8.73	10.3
1998	513.2	4,701.5	4,585.5	9.16	8.93	10.5
1999	529.8	5,291.2	5,058.6	9.99	9.55	10.8
2000	551.8	5,584.6	5,264.1	10.12	9.54	11.2
2001	587.0	6,116.6	5,630.7	10.42	9.59	11.9
2002	617.0	6,846.7	6,111.5	11.10	9.90	12.4
2003	649.7	7,510.1	6,515.0	11.56	10.03	13.0
2004	686.1	8,079.6	6,820.6	11.78	9.94	13.7
2005	720.3	7,936.6	6,558.6	11.02	9.11	14.3
2006	752.0	8,196.8	6,594.5	10.90	8.77	14.8
2007	796.3	8,372.7	6,545.3	10.51	8.22	15.6

Average annual increase (%)

1997 to 1998	2.6%	7.6%	5.0%	4.9%	2.3%	2.3%
1998 to 1999	3.2%	12.5%	10.3%	9.0%	6.9%	2.8%
1999 to 2000	4.2%	5.5%	4.1%	1.3%	-0.1%	3.7%
2000 to 2001	6.4%	9.5%	7.0%	3.0%	0.5%	5.9%
2001 to 2002	5.1%	11.9%	8.5%	6.5%	3.3%	4.7%
2002 to 2003	5.3%	9.7%	6.6%	4.2%	1.2%	4.8%
2003 to 2004	5.6%	7.6%	4.7%	1.9%	-0.9%	5.1%
2004 to 2005	5.0%	-1.8%	-3.8%	-6.4%	-8.4%	4.2%
2005 to 2006	4.4%	3.3%	0.5%	-1.1%	-3.7%	3.8%
2006 to 2007	5.9%	2.1%	-0.7%	-3.5%	-6.3%	5.2%
1997 to 2007	4.8%	6.7%	4.1%	1.9%	-0.6%	4.3%

Notes :

1. The data are from the PCA system and cover prescription items dispensed by community pharmacists, appliance contractors, dispensing doctors and items personally administered.
2. Figures at 1997 prices are calculated using the GDP Deflator (see paragraph 56).
3. Revised ONS mid-year resident population estimates for 1997 to 2006, based on the 2001 Census and mid-year resident projections for 2007, based on 2006 mid year population estimates, have been used.

Table 2 Number of prescription items⁽¹⁾ and percentage of total items dispensed in the community by charged prescriptions and those categories where no prescription charge is made, 1997 - 2007

England												
Year	Charged Prescriptions						Free Prescriptions					
	Charge at point of dispensing		Pre-payment certificate		Total Charged		Elderly		Young		Maternity/ Medical	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Number of prescription items (millions)												
Community pharmacists and appliance contractors only												
1997	46.7	10.3	19.4	4.3	66.1	14.6	223.9	49.3	49.4	10.9	23.4	5.2
1998	48.6	10.4	19.4	4.2	68.0	14.6	234.0	50.1	46.7	10.0	26.8	5.7
1999	51.4	10.7	20.1	4.2	71.6	14.9	252.2	52.3	43.7	9.1	30.4	6.3
2000	53.0	10.6	21.6	4.3	74.6	14.9	270.2	54.0	41.6	8.3	32.4	6.5
2001	54.6	10.2	23.8	4.5	78.4	14.7	293.8	55.1	42.1	7.9	36.5	6.8
All dispensed items												
2001(a)	58.8	10.0	26.7	4.6	85.5	14.6	317.5	54.1	44.2	7.5	39.1	6.7
2002(a)	59.6	9.7	28.8	4.7	88.4	14.3	339.7	55.0	42.8	6.9	42.2	6.8
2003(a)	58.9	9.1	30.6	4.7	89.5	13.8	363.5	55.9	42.4	6.5	45.9	7.1
2004(a)	57.8	8.4	32.2	4.7	90.0	13.1	391.4	57.0	41.1	6.0	50.1	7.3
2005(a)	56.5	7.8	33.1	4.6	89.5	12.4	409.5	56.9	42.5	5.9	52.6	7.3
2006(a)	55.8	7.4	34.4	4.6	90.2	12.0	440.8	58.6	42.7	5.7	55.0	7.3
2007 (a)	56.7	7.1	34.1	4.3	90.8	11.4	469.1	58.9	42.7	5.4	55.6	7.0
Net ingredient cost (£millions)												
Community pharmacists and appliance contractors only												
1997	540.7	13.6	243.9	6.1	784.7	19.7	1,905.9	47.9	277.0	7.0	267.1	6.7
1998	585.8	13.7	254.2	5.9	840.0	19.6	2,060.1	48.1	281.9	6.6	321.9	7.5
1999	666.0	13.8	280.9	5.8	946.9	19.6	2,419.6	50.0	288.0	6.0	402.6	8.3
2000	682.4	13.4	300.6	5.9	983.0	19.3	2,621.0	51.4	283.6	5.6	441.1	8.7
2001	712.5	12.7	336.3	6.0	1,048.8	18.8	2,923.5	52.3	298.1	5.3	517.2	9.2
All dispensed items												
2001(a)	759.9	12.4	370.7	6.1	1,130.6	18.5	3,120.3	51.0	312.6	5.1	543.5	8.9
2002(a)	811.2	11.8	415.0	6.1	1,226.2	17.9	3,560.7	52.0	325.1	4.7	621.4	9.1
2003(a)	816.2	10.9	454.7	6.1	1,270.9	16.9	3,988.5	53.1	338.8	4.5	696.8	9.3
2004(a)	808.9	10.0	479.9	5.9	1,288.8	16.0	4,334.0	53.6	353.7	4.4	775.8	9.6
2005(a)	727.0	9.2	453.1	5.7	1,180.1	14.9	4,180.3	52.7	379.7	4.8	779.5	9.8
2006(a)	687.1	8.4	462.7	5.6	1,149.8	14.0	4,401.8	53.7	412.9	5.0	814.9	9.9
2007 (a)	661.0	7.9	442.1	5.3	1,103.1	13.2	4,479.1	53.5	426.8	5.1	799.8	9.6
Average net ingredient cost per prescription item (£)												
Community pharmacists and appliance contractors only												
1997	11.57		12.57		11.86		8.51		5.61		11.39	
1998	12.07		13.07		12.35		8.80		6.04		11.99	
1999	12.95		13.96		13.23		9.59		6.59		13.23	
2000	12.88		13.91		13.18		9.70		6.82		13.61	
2001	13.06		14.13		13.38		9.95		7.08		14.16	
All dispensed items												
2001(a)	12.93		13.88		13.23		9.83		7.07		13.92	
2002(a)	13.60		14.41		13.87		10.48		7.59		14.71	
2003(a)	13.86		14.86		14.20		10.97		7.99		15.19	
2004(a)	14.00		14.89		14.32		11.07		8.61		15.47	
2005(a)	12.87		13.71		13.18		10.21		8.93		14.81	
2006(a)	12.30		13.47		12.75		9.99		9.66		14.81	
2007 (a)	11.66		12.96		12.15		9.55		9.99		14.39	

Notes :

1. The analysis of 1993 to 2001 data for non-charged categories is based on a 1 in 20 sample of all exempt prescriptions submitted to the PPA by community pharmacists and appliance contractors only. Items dispensed by dispensing doctors and personal administration prescriptions are excluded. Data for 2001(a) - 2007(a) also includes prescription items dispensed by dispensing doctors and items personally administered by prescribing and dispensing doctors. Personally administered items are free of charge.

2. NHS LIS : NHS Low Income Scheme

Table 2 Continued from previous page

Free Prescriptions											
NHS LIS		No charge contraceptives		Personally administered		Other		Total Free		Grand total	
Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
69.6	15.3	6.5	1.4	n/a	n/a	15.4	3.4	388.2	85.4	454.3	100.0
69.0	14.8	6.4	1.4	n/a	n/a	16.2	3.5	399.1	85.4	467.1	100.0
66.5	13.8	6.6	1.4	n/a	n/a	10.8	2.2	410.3	85.1	481.9	100.0
66.0	13.2	7.9	1.6	n/a	n/a	8.0	1.6	426.0	85.1	500.5	100.0
68.3	12.8	7.8	1.5	n/a	n/a	6.2	1.2	454.8	85.3	533.1	100.0
70.1	11.9	8.4	1.4	15.8	2.7	6.6	1.1	501.6	85.4	587.0	100.0
73.3	11.9	8.3	1.3	15.6	2.5	6.6	1.1	528.6	85.7	617.0	100.0
77.2	11.9	8.3	1.3	16.2	2.5	6.7	1.0	560.2	86.2	649.7	100.0
81.3	11.8	8.2	1.2	17.0	2.5	7.0	1.0	596.1	86.9	686.1	100.0
82.6	11.5	8.1	1.1	19.4	2.7	15.9	2.2	630.7	87.6	720.3	100.0
84.5	11.2	8.2	1.1	17.0	2.3	13.5	1.8	661.7	88.0	751.9	100.0
84.8	10.6	8.2	1.0	17.4	2.2	27.6	3.5	705.5	88.6	796.3	100.0
573.6	14.4	36.7	0.9	n/a	n/a	130.8	3.3	3,191.1	80.3	3,975.8	100.0
601.2	14.0	37.8	0.9	n/a	n/a	142.2	3.3	3,445.1	80.4	4,285.1	100.0
633.7	13.1	40.5	0.8	n/a	n/a	104.2	2.2	3,888.8	80.4	4,835.7	100.0
638.1	12.5	49.0	1.0	n/a	n/a	81.9	1.6	4,114.7	80.7	5,097.7	100.0
686.5	12.3	51.3	0.9	n/a	n/a	66.5	1.2	4,543.1	81.2	5,591.9	100.0
704.3	11.5	54.3	0.9	180.6	3.0	70.4	1.2	4,986.0	81.5	6,116.6	100.0
791.5	11.6	57.5	0.8	190.1	2.8	74.1	1.1	5,620.4	82.1	6,846.7	100.0
871.2	11.6	59.7	0.8	204.2	2.7	80.1	1.1	6,239.3	83.1	7,510.2	100.0
951.2	11.8	62.1	0.8	224.8	2.8	89.1	1.1	6,790.8	84.0	8,079.6	100.0
938.2	11.8	62.7	0.8	235.5	3.0	180.6	2.3	6,756.4	85.1	7,936.6	100.0
961.5	11.7	67.1	0.8	222.6	2.7	166.2	2.0	7,047.1	86.0	8,196.8	100.0
945.0	11.3	70.8	0.8	226.0	2.7	322.5	3.9	7,270.0	86.8	8,372.7	100.0
8.24		5.68		n/a		8.48		8.22		8.75	
8.72		5.87		n/a		8.80		8.63		9.17	
9.53		6.14		n/a		9.66		9.48		10.04	
9.67		6.21		n/a		10.26		9.66		10.18	
10.05		6.59		n/a		10.67		9.99		10.49	
10.05		6.49		11.44		10.63		9.94		10.42	
10.79		6.91		12.18		11.25		10.63		11.10	
11.28		7.21		12.61		11.86		11.14		11.56	
11.70		7.56		13.22		12.69		11.39		11.78	
11.36		7.69		12.13		11.38		10.71		11.02	
11.38		8.22		13.06		12.32		10.65		10.90	
11.14		8.68		12.96		11.67		10.31		10.51	

3. "Other" includes war pensioners and no declaration/declaration not specific.

4. See paragraph 74 for full explanation of categories.

5. See paragraphs 71 for explanation of the change of procedure to count "no charge contraceptives" and for items personally administered.

6. "n/a": not appropriate - only GP practices can be reimbursed for personally administered items.

7. "Free prescriptions" here includes both those to exempt patients and free items.

Table 3 Number of exempt prescription items and percentage of total items dispensed in the community by category of exemption, 2006 and 2007

England

	2006		2007	
	Number	% all items	Number	% all items
Number of exempt prescription items (millions)	636.5	84.7	679.9	85.4
Children under 16	37.6	5.0	37.6	4.7
Young people 16,17 or 18 in full time education	5.2	0.7	5.1	0.6
Elderly people	440.8	58.6	469.1	58.9
Maternity exemption	4.7	0.6	4.6	0.6
Medical exemption	50.3	6.7	50.9	6.4
Income support	53.8	7.2	53.2	6.7
Working Families Tax Credit/Working Tax Credit	17.6	2.3	18.4	2.3
Minimum Income Guarantee/Pension Credit	0.9	0.1	1.0	0.1
Disabled Person's Tax Credit/Disability working allowance	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Holders of an HC2 certificate	4.0	0.5	3.9	0.5
Income based Jobseekers allowance	8.1	1.1	8.2	1.0
War pension	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.1
No declaration / declaration not specific	12.9	1.7	27.0	3.4
Net ingredient cost of exempt items (£millions)	6,757.3	82.4	6,973.2	83.3
Children under 16	353.8	4.3	369.1	4.4
Young people 16,17 or 18 in full time education	59.1	0.7	57.7	0.7
Elderly people	4,401.8	53.7	4,479.1	53.5
Maternity exemption	39.7	0.5	37.9	0.5
Medical exemption	775.2	9.5	761.9	9.1
Income support	638.5	7.8	621.0	7.4
Working Families Tax Credit/Working Tax Credit	182.1	2.2	184.5	2.2
Minimum Income Guarantee/Pension Credit	10.1	0.1	11.0	0.1
Disabled Person's Tax Credit/Disability working allowance	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0
Holders of an HC2 certificate	48.2	0.6	45.8	0.5
Income based Jobseekers allowance	82.2	1.0	82.3	1.0
War pension	8.9	0.1	9.1	0.1
No declaration / declaration not specific	157.2	1.9	313.4	3.7
Average net ingredient cost per exempt prescription item	10.62		10.26	
Children under 16	9.41		9.81	
Young people 16,17 or 18 in full time education	11.45		11.25	
Elderly people	9.99		9.55	
Maternity exemption	8.49		8.18	
Medical exemption	15.40		14.95	
Income support	11.86		11.67	
Working Families Tax Credit/Working Tax Credit/Family credit	10.32		10.02	
Minimum Income Guarantee/Pension Credit	11.18		10.55	
Disabled Person's Tax Credit/Disability working allowance	14.14		12.46	
Holders of an HC2 certificate	12.14		11.89	
Income based Jobseekers allowance	10.13		10.00	
War pension	14.30		14.87	
No declaration / declaration not specific	12.22		11.59	

Notes :

1. The analysis of 2006 and 2007 data for non-charged categories is based on a 1 in 20 sample of all exempt prescriptions submitted to the PPA by dispensing doctors as well as chemists and appliance contractors. Contraceptives and items personally administered by prescribing and dispensing doctors are free and are not shown in the table but are included in the totals used to calculate percentages.
2. See paragraph 74 for definition of exemption categories.
3. Information for Medical and Maternity exemption categories is shown separately. A very small number of items was recorded on "old" forms under the HA exemption category which included both medical and maternity exemption. These have been pro-rated to the Medical and Maternity categories.
4. No charge contraceptives and personally administered items are excluded from this analysis.

Table 4 Number of prescription items⁽¹⁾ and percentage of total items dispensed by community pharmacists and appliance contractors and dispensing doctors, by charged and non-charged categories, 2007

England	Total 2007		Community pharmacists and appliance contractors		Dispensing doctors	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Number of prescription items (millions):						
Charged at point of dispensing	56.7	7.3	52.8	7.3	3.9	6.9
Pre-payment certificates	34.1	4.4	29.9	4.1	4.2	7.5
No charge contraceptives	8.2	1.0	7.6	1.0	0.6	1.0
Exempt prescription items	679.9	87.3	632.6	87.5	47.3	84.5
Of Which:						
Children under 16	37.6	4.8	35.8	5.0	1.8	3.2
Young people 16,17 or 18 in full time education	5.1	0.7	4.7	0.7	0.4	0.7
Elderly people	469.1	60.2	431.2	59.7	37.9	67.7
Maternity exemption	4.6	0.6	4.4	0.6	0.2	0.4
Medical exemption	50.9	6.5	47.3	6.5	3.6	6.5
Income support	53.2	6.8	52.0	7.2	1.2	2.2
Working Families Tax Credit/Working Tax Credit	18.4	2.4	17.6	2.4	0.8	1.5
Minimum Income Guarantee/Pension Credit	1.0	0.1	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Disabled Person's Tax Credit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Holder's of an HC2 certificate	3.9	0.5	3.7	0.5	0.2	0.3
Income based Jobseekers allowance	8.2	1.1	8.1	1.1	0.2	0.3
War pension	0.6	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.1
No declaration / declaration not specific	27.0	3.5	26.2	3.6	0.8	1.5
Net ingredient cost (£millions):						
Charged at point of dispensing	661.0	8.1	624.1	8.1	36.9	7.9
Pre-payment certificates	442.1	5.4	398.8	5.2	43.3	9.2
No charge contraceptives	70.8	0.9	66.5	0.9	4.3	0.9
Exempt prescription items	6,973.2	85.6	6,588.9	85.8	384.3	82.0
Of Which:						
Children under 16	369.1	4.5	354.1	4.6	15.0	3.2
Young people 16,17 or 18 in full time education	57.7	0.7	54.2	0.7	3.5	0.7
Elderly people	4,479.1	55.0	4,184.3	54.5	294.9	62.9
Maternity exemption	37.9	0.5	36.3	0.5	1.6	0.4
Medical exemption	761.9	9.4	725.1	9.4	36.7	7.8
Income support	621.0	7.6	608.0	7.9	13.0	2.8
Working Families Tax Credit/Working Tax Credit	184.5	2.3	176.6	2.3	8.0	1.7
Minimum Income Guarantee/Pension Credit	11.0	0.1	10.4	0.1	0.5	0.1
Disabled Person's Tax Credit	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Holder's of an HC2 certificate	45.8	0.6	44.2	0.6	1.6	0.3
Income based Jobseekers allowance	82.3	1.0	80.8	1.1	1.5	0.3
War pension	9.1	0.1	8.5	0.1	0.5	0.1
No declaration / declaration not specific	313.5	3.8	306.1	4.0	7.4	1.6
Average net ingredient cost per prescription item (£):						
Charged at point of dispensing	11.66		11.82		9.51	
Pre-payment certificates	12.96		13.33		10.32	
No charge contraceptives	8.68		8.78		7.35	
Exempt prescription items	10.26		10.42		8.13	
Of Which:						
Children under 16	9.81		9.89		8.26	
Young people 16,17 or 18 in full time education	11.25		11.42		9.12	
Elderly people	9.55		9.70		7.79	
Maternity exemption	8.18		8.25		6.86	
Medical exemption	14.95		15.33		10.07	
Income support	11.67		11.69		10.59	
Working Families Tax Credit/Working Tax Credit	10.02		10.03		9.70	
Minimum Income Guarantee/Pension Credit	10.55		10.57		10.21	
Disabled Person's Tax Credit	12.46		12.59		8.79	
Holder's of an HC2 certificate	11.89		11.95		10.57	
Income based Jobseekers allowance	10.00		10.02		9.26	
War pension	14.87		15.06		12.33	
No declaration / declaration not specific	11.60		11.68		8.85	

- Notes :
1. Personally administered items are excluded from this analysis. Percentages are of all items dispensed less personally administered items
 2. The analysis of 2007 data for non-charged categories is based on a 1 in 20 sample of all exempt prescriptions submitted to the NHSBSA(PPD) by community pharmacists and appliance contractors and dispensing doctors.
 3. See paragraph 74 for definition of exemption categories.
 4. Information for Medical and Maternity exemption categories is shown separately. A very small number of items was recorded on "old" forms under the HA exemption category which included both medical and maternity exemption. These have been pro-rated to both categories.

Table 5 Average number of prescription items dispensed in the community per head of population by broad age group, 1997 - 2007

England

Year	Children aged 0-15 years	Others aged 16-59/64 years	Elderly people	All ages
Community pharmacists and appliance contractors only ⁽¹⁾				
1997	4.9	6.3	22.3	10.3
1998	4.7	6.5	23.2	10.5
1999	4.4	6.4	24.8	10.8
2000	4.2	6.5	26.5	11.2
2001	4.2	6.7	28.7	11.9
All dispensed items				
2001(a)	4.5	7.2	31.0	11.9
2002(a)	4.3	7.4	33.0	12.4
2003(a)	4.3	7.7	35.0	13.0
2004(a)	4.2	7.9	37.3	13.7
2005(a)	3.8	9.1	38.4	14.3
2006(a)	3.9	9.0	40.8	14.8
2007(a)	3.9	9.5	42.4	15.6

Notes :

1. The analysis of 1997 to 2001 data for non-charged categories is based on a 1 in 20 sample of all exempt prescriptions submitted to the NHBSPA(PPD) by community pharmacists and appliance contractors only. Items dispensed by dispensing doctors and personal administration prescriptions are excluded. Data for 2001(a) to 2007(a) also includes prescription items dispensed by dispensing doctors. Items personally administered by prescribing and dispensing doctors are not included in the broad age groups, but are included in the "All ages" group.
2. The calculation of the average number of prescriptions per head for children includes prescriptions of persons under 19 in full time education, although the population figure used is for children and young people aged 15 years and under only.
3. All no charge contraceptives items have been included under "others aged 16-59/64 years"
4. Revised ONS mid-year resident population estimates for 1997 to 2006, based on the 2001 Census and mid-year resident projections for 2007, based on 2006 mid year population estimates, have been used.
5. Prescription items per head for all dispensers from 1997 to 2007 is shown on Table 1.

Table 6 Number, net ingredient cost (NIC) and average NIC per prescription item by class of preparation, 1997 - 2007

England

Year	Class of preparation				All classes
	Prescribed and dispensed generically ⁽²⁾ (class 1)	Prescribed generically, dispensed and reimbursed as proprietary ⁽³⁾ (class 2)	Prescribed and dispensed as proprietary (class 3)	Dressings and appliances (class 4)	
Number of prescription items (million)					
1997	226.6	65.8	192.9	14.9	500.2
1998	237.9	75.7	184.7	14.9	513.2
1999	248.4	90.9	175.4	15.1	529.8
2000	277.6	103.2	155.4	15.5	551.8
2001	297.5	125.1	147.8	16.6	587.0
2002	317.9	138.1	144.0	17.0	617.0
2003	350.1	141.5	140.1	17.9	649.7
2004	385.6	142.3	139.6	18.5	686.1
2005	415.3	145.8	139.6	19.6	720.3
2006	454.2	142.9	133.2	21.7	752.0
2007	495.5	142.9	134.9	23.1	796.3
Net ingredient cost (£million)					
1997	624.1	1,319.9	2,186.7	236.8	4,367.5
1998	685.1	1,547.5	2,221.3	247.5	4,701.5
1999	917.1	1,937.3	2,171.9	264.9	5,291.2
2000	1,143.0	2,167.0	1,990.1	284.5	5,584.6
2001	1,035.4	2,747.6	2,021.4	312.3	6,116.6
2002	1,297.0	3,132.5	2,079.9	337.2	6,846.7
2003	1,694.6	3,325.2	2,119.6	370.6	7,510.1
2004	2,021.8	3,435.2	2,220.6	402.0	8,079.6
2005	1,978.8	3,331.9	2,189.9	436.0	7,936.6
2006	2,276.5	3,274.7	2,172.8	472.8	8,196.8
2007	2,287.2	3,362.9	2,218.3	504.2	8,372.7
Average net ingredient cost per prescription item (£)					
1997	2.75	20.07	11.34	15.94	8.73
1998	2.88	20.45	12.02	16.58	9.16
1999	3.69	21.32	12.38	17.52	9.99
2000	4.12	20.99	12.80	18.31	10.12
2001	3.48	21.96	13.67	18.83	10.42
2002	4.08	22.69	14.44	19.83	11.10
2003	4.84	23.50	15.13	20.67	11.56
2004	5.24	24.13	15.91	21.67	11.78
2005	4.77	22.85	15.68	22.24	11.02
2006	5.01	22.92	16.31	21.81	10.90
2007	4.62	23.54	16.44	21.87	10.51

Notes :

1. The data are from the PCA system and cover prescription items dispensed by community pharmacists, appliance contractors, dispensing doctors and items personally administered.
2. Prescriptions which were written generically, are available generically and reimbursed at the Drug Tariff or generic price.
3. Drug is not available generically.
4. Preparation classes are defined in paragraph 63.
5. Some drugs were incorrectly allocated to OWC2 (see paragraph 65) in the years 2000 and 2001. As a result figures for 2000 are unreliable for classes 2 and 3; figures for 2001 have been corrected.

**Table 7 Generic prescribing and dispensing, 1997 - 2007: all items excluding dressings and appliances
England**

All items excluding dressings and appliances				
Year	Prescribed generically (class 1 and 2)	Prescribed and dispensed generically(2) (class 1)	Prescribed generically, dispensed and reimbursed as proprietary(3) (class 2)	Total
Prescription items				Millions
1997	60.3%	46.7%	13.6%	485.3
1998	62.9%	47.7%	15.2%	498.3
1999	65.9%	48.3%	17.7%	514.7
2000	71.0%	51.8%	19.2%	536.3
2001	74.1%	52.2%	21.9%	570.5
2002	76.0%	53.0%	23.0%	600.0
2003	77.8%	55.4%	22.4%	631.8
2004	79.1%	57.8%	21.3%	667.6
2005	80.1%	59.3%	20.8%	700.7
2006	81.8%	62.2%	19.6%	730.3
2007	82.6%	64.1%	18.5%	773.2
Net ingredient cost				£ millions
1997	47.1%	15.1%	32.0%	4,130.7
1998	50.1%	15.4%	34.7%	4,454.0
1999	56.8%	18.2%	38.5%	5,026.4
2000	62.5%	21.6%	40.9%	5,300.1
2001	65.2%	17.8%	47.3%	5,804.3
2002	68.0%	19.9%	48.1%	6,509.4
2003	70.3%	23.7%	46.6%	7,139.5
2004	71.1%	26.3%	44.7%	7,677.6
2005	70.8%	26.4%	44.4%	7,500.6
2006	71.9%	29.5%	42.4%	7,724.0
2007	71.8%	29.1%	42.7%	7,868.4

Notes :

1. The data are from the PCA system and cover prescription items dispensed by community pharmacists, appliance contractors, dispensing doctors and items personally administered.
2. Prescriptions which were written generically, are available generically and reimbursed at the Drug Tariff or generic price.
3. Drug is not available generically.
4. Some drugs were incorrectly allocated to "Of Which Class 2" (see paragraph 65) in the years 2000 and 2001. As a result "prescribed generically" figures for 2000 are unreliable; figures for 2001 have been corrected.

Table 8 Generic prescribing and dispensing, based on items, by British National Formulary chapters, 2006 and 2007**England**

BNF chapter	% Prescribed generically		% Dispensed generically ⁽⁵⁾	
	2006	2007	2006	2007
1 : Gastro-intestinal system	80.1	81.3	62.5	66.2
2 : Cardiovascular system	93.7	94.6	71.4	74.9
3 : Respiratory system	74.3	72.7	44.7	44.2
4 : Central nervous system	90.9	90.9	74.3	74.6
5 : Infections	97.2	97.6	91.9	92.3
6 : Endocrine system	77.1	78.6	62.9	64.1
7 : Obstetrics, gynaecology, & urinary-tract disorders	47.2	50.3	12.5	15.3
8 : Malignant disease & immunosuppression	80.9	81.6	43.3	42.8
9 : Nutrition & blood	52.6	52.8	45.6	45.3
10 : Musculoskeletal & joint diseases	83.4	84.5	64.7	66.8
11 : Eye	66.4	66.1	32.8	31.0
12 : Ear, nose & oropharynx	56.4	56.3	20.7	16.5
13 : Skin	47.1	47.9	21.8	21.5
14 : Immunological products & vaccines	26.0	29.2	25.5	28.6
15 : Anaesthesia	51.7	52.8	45.5	44.8
Other	48.3	70.6	48.0	70.3
Total (excluding dressings and appliances)	81.8	82.6	62.2	64.1

Notes:

1. BNF chapters are based on the British National Formulary (September 2006). See paragraph 17.
2. The data are from the PCA system and cover all prescription items dispensed by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors and personal administration.
3. The table covers BNF chapters 1 to 15 and "others" - see note 4 below. Dressings and appliances are excluded.
4. The "Other" category covers drugs contained in pseudo British National Formulary chapters used by the NHSBSA (PPD), eg homeopathic preparations.
5. Prescriptions which were written generically, are available generically and reimbursed at the Drug Tariff or generic price.

Table 9 Number, net ingredient cost (NIC) and average NIC per prescription item by British National Formulary chapters, 2006 and 2007

England

BNF Chapter	Prescription items (millions)			Net ingredient cost (£ millions)				Average net ingredient cost per prescription item (£)		
	2006	2007	% Change	2006	2007	% Change	Increase	2006	2007	% Change
1 : Gastro-intestinal system	56.3	59.8	6.3%	562.2	477.5	-15.1%	-84.7	9.99	7.98	-20.1%
2 : Cardiovascular system	234.8	250.9	6.8%	1,885.1	1,813.4	-3.8%	-71.8	8.03	7.23	-10.0%
3 : Respiratory system	52.3	53.6	2.5%	837.8	886.9	5.9%	49.1	16.02	16.54	3.2%
4 : Central nervous system	129.1	138.0	6.8%	1,580.6	1,731.1	9.5%	150.5	12.24	12.55	2.5%
5 : Infections	42.6	45.1	5.8%	226.2	220.1	-2.7%	-6.1	5.31	4.89	-8.0%
6 : Endocrine system	62.6	67.4	7.7%	890.1	912.2	2.5%	22.0	14.21	13.53	-4.8%
7 : Obstetrics, gynaecology & urinary-tract disorders	17.5	18.3	4.9%	251.2	265.6	5.8%	14.4	14.38	14.49	0.8%
8 : Malignant disease & immunosuppression	3.3	3.5	5.4%	300.5	328.2	9.2%	27.7	89.70	92.98	3.7%
9 : Nutrition & blood	26.1	29.5	13.0%	367.9	397.5	8.1%	29.7	14.11	13.50	-4.4%
10: Musculoskeletal & joint diseases	28.2	28.6	1.4%	214.1	205.5	-4.0%	-8.6	7.59	7.19	-5.3%
11: Eye	16.5	17.2	3.9%	130.2	139.9	7.5%	9.7	7.89	8.16	3.4%
12: Ear, nose & oropharynx	9.7	10.0	2.4%	62.4	65.6	5.2%	3.3	6.41	6.59	2.7%
13: Skin	34.8	35.3	1.2%	224.2	238.7	6.5%	14.5	6.43	6.77	5.2%
14: Immunological products and vaccines	13.6	13.9	1.8%	129.1	130.4	1.0%	1.3	9.47	9.39	-0.8%
15: Anaesthesia	0.9	1.0	5.8%	4.2	4.4	4.6%	0.2	4.66	4.61	-1.1%
Other	1.8	1.4	-26.0%	58.3	51.4	-11.9%	-6.9	31.80	37.90	19.2%
Dressings & appliances	21.7	23.1	6.4%	472.8	504.2	6.7%	31.4	21.81	21.87	0.3%
Overall Total	752.0	796.3	5.9%	8,196.8	8,372.7	2.1%	175.8	10.90	10.51	-3.5%

Notes:

1. Therapeutic classes are based on the British National Formulary (September 2006). See paragraph 17.
2. The data are from the PCA system and cover all prescription items dispensed by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and personal administration.
3. The "Other" category covers drugs contained in pseudo British National Formulary chapters used by the NHSBSA (PPD), eg homeopathic preparations.

Table 10 Number and net ingredient cost (NIC) in 2006 and 2007 for the 20 British National Formulary sections which had the greatest increase in NIC between 2006 and 2007**England**

BNF Section	Prescription items (millions)			Net ingredient cost (£millions)				
	2006	2007	%Change	2006	2007	Increase	%Change	% of the overall increase
3.2 Corticosteroids (Respiratory)	14.6	15.2	4.1%	473.3	519.1	45.8	9.7%	30.2%
4.7 Analgesics	48.9	51.6	5.5%	411.2	452.0	40.9	9.9%	27.0%
6.1 Drugs Used In Diabetes	28.4	30.4	6.9%	562.5	594.1	31.6	5.6%	20.9%
4.8 Antiepileptics	9.8	10.7	8.4%	239.6	268.5	28.9	12.1%	19.1%
4.1 Drugs Used In Substance Dependence	5.0	5.8	14.9%	85.5	111.3	25.8	30.2%	17.1%
4.2 Drugs Used In Psychoses & Rel.Disorders	7.2	7.7	6.8%	244.9	269.6	24.7	10.1%	16.3%
9.4 Oral Nutrition	4.7	5.3	14.0%	200.8	220.7	19.9	9.9%	13.2%
8.3 Sex Hormones & Antag In Malig Disease	2.1	2.2	4.9%	206.2	224.5	18.2	8.8%	12.1%
1.5 Chronic Bow el Disorders	1.7	1.8	4.9%	68.1	82.8	14.7	21.6%	9.7%
2.9 Antiplatelet Drugs	32.8	35.4	7.9%	194.9	209.3	14.3	7.4%	9.5%
4.1 Hypnotics And Anxiolytics	15.9	16.2	2.1%	49.5	61.7	12.2	24.6%	8.1%
4.1.1 Drugs for Dementia	0.8	0.9	19.2%	59.0	70.4	11.4	19.4%	7.6%
4.9 Drugs Used In Park'ism/Related Disorders	3.0	3.2	6.2%	94.0	105.4	11.4	12.1%	7.5%
6.3 Corticosteroids (Endocrine)	5.6	6.0	6.7%	12.1	23.1	11.0	90.5%	7.2%
6.2 Thyroid And Antithyroid Drugs	17.6	19.2	9.4%	35.7	45.9	10.2	28.6%	6.8%
2.5 Hypertension and Heart Failure	47.7	53.6	12.3%	501.5	510.6	9.1	1.8%	6.0%
13.4 Topical Corticosteroids	12.2	12.3	0.8%	57.5	66.1	8.6	15.0%	5.7%
7.4 Drugs For Genito-Urinary Disorders	7.2	8.0	10.4%	170.1	177.7	7.6	4.5%	5.0%
11.6 Treatment Of Glaucoma	6.5	6.7	4.4%	91.2	97.6	6.3	7.0%	4.2%
9.6 Vitamins	10.2	11.7	14.7%	48.9	54.9	6.0	12.2%	3.9%

Notes:

1. The data are from the PCA system and cover prescription items dispensed by community pharmacists, appliance contractors, dispensing doctors and items personally administered.
2. BNF sections are based on the British National Formulary (September 2005). See paragraph 17. Only those therapeutic areas in the BNF, ie Chapters 1 to 15, are included in the analysis. Dressings and appliances and other items in the NHSBSA (PPD) pseudo classifications are excluded.

Table 11 Number, net ingredient cost (NIC) and average NIC per item in 2006 and 2007 for the 20 British National Formulary sections which had the greatest NIC in 2007

England

BNF Section	Prescription items (millions)			Net ingredient cost (£millions)			Average net ingredient cost per item (£)		
	2006	2007	%Change	2006	2007	%Change	2006	2007	%Change
6.1 Drugs Used In Diabetes	28.4	30.4	6.9%	562.5	594.1	5.6%	19.78	19.54	-1.2%
2.12 Lipid-Regulating Drugs	42.1	47.4	12.6%	622.3	593.8	-4.6%	14.78	12.52	-15.3%
3.2 Corticosteroids (Respiratory)	14.6	15.2	4.1%	473.3	519.1	9.7%	32.43	34.16	5.3%
2.5 Hypertension and Heart Failure	47.7	53.6	12.3%	501.5	510.6	1.8%	10.51	9.52	-9.4%
4.7 Analgesics	48.9	51.6	5.5%	411.2	452.0	9.9%	8.40	8.76	4.2%
4.3 Antidepressant Drugs	31.0	33.8	9.0%	291.5	276.1	-5.3%	9.39	8.16	-13.1%
3.1 Bronchodilators	24.9	25.3	1.7%	266.3	270.8	1.7%	10.69	10.69	0.0%
4.2 Drugs Used In Psychoses & Rel.Disorders	7.2	7.7	6.8%	244.9	269.6	10.1%	33.84	34.89	3.1%
4.8 Antiepileptics	9.8	10.7	8.4%	239.6	268.5	12.1%	24.35	25.18	3.4%
2.6 Nit,Calc Block & Other Antianginal Drugs	34.7	37.2	7.2%	313.5	260.7	-16.9%	9.03	7.00	-22.5%
1.3 Antisecretory Drugs+Mucosal Protectants	29.6	32.7	10.5%	352.9	245.8	-30.4%	11.93	7.52	-37.0%
8.3 Sex Hormones & Antag In Malig Disease	2.1	2.2	4.9%	206.2	224.5	8.8%	96.99	100.66	3.8%
9.4 Oral Nutrition	4.7	5.3	14.0%	200.8	220.7	9.9%	42.96	41.43	-3.6%
2.9 Antiplatelet Drugs	32.8	35.4	7.9%	194.9	209.3	7.4%	5.95	5.91	-0.5%
7.4 Drugs For Genito-Urinary Disorders	7.2	8.0	10.4%	170.1	177.7	4.5%	23.50	22.23	-5.4%
5.1 Antibacterial Drugs	37.2	39.2	5.4%	171.0	173.6	1.5%	4.60	4.43	-3.7%
10.1 Drugs Used In Rheumatic Diseases & Gout	22.7	22.9	0.8%	175.0	165.9	-5.2%	7.71	7.26	-5.9%
14.4 Vaccines And Antisera	13.6	13.9	1.8%	126.2	127.6	1.1%	9.26	9.19	-0.7%
4.1 Drugs Used In Substance Dependence	5.0	5.8	14.9%	85.5	111.3	30.2%	17.05	19.33	13.4%
4.9 Drugs Used In Park'ism/Related Disorders	3.0	3.2	6.2%	94.0	105.4	12.1%	31.16	32.90	5.6%

Notes:

1. The data are from the PCA system and cover prescription items dispensed by community pharmacists, appliance contractors, dispensing doctors and items personally administered.

2. BNF sections are based on the British National Formulary (September 2006). See paragraph 17. Only those therapeutic areas in the BNF, ie Chapters 1 to 15, are included in the analysis. Dressings and appliances and other items in the NHSBSA (PPD) pseudo classifications are excluded.