

Statement of Administrative Sources



Annex B: Supporting metadata

Organisation	The Information Centre for Health and Social Care (The NHS Information Centre for health and Social Care) http://www.ic.nhs.uk/	
Enquiries	Please contact the NHS Information Centre (NHS IC) Contact centre Telephone: 0845 300 6016 and email: enquiries@ic.nhs.uk	
Responsible Person	Name: David Lloyd Section: Prescribing Support and Primary Care Services	
Section 1: Statistical End Product	Prescription Cost Analysis, England	
Section 2: Original Administrative/Management Source/System	Name	Prescribing data (NHS Prescription Services)
	Name of the organisation responsible	Prescription Services, NHS Business Services Authority

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	Purpose of the administrative source	Re-imburement of dispensers
	Unit of Inquiry	Prescription
	Intended Coverage	All prescriptions dispensed in England
	Actual Coverage	As above
	Geographical Coverage	England
	Lowest level of Geographical Coverage	National
	Extent to which statistical end-producers can influence system?	Quarterly liaison meetings between IC, DH and Prescription Services
	Data definitions used	Items, quantity and cost, see BSA website for details of contents of database http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/815.aspx
	Classification systems used	British National Formulary published by the British Medical Association and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, see www.bnf.org.uk
	Data Collection Process	1)Periodicity/Timing 2)Validation process
	Access Arrangements	Data is provided quarterly about 6 weeks after the end of the third month. We are reliant on Prescription Services' quality control
	Dissemination Procedures	Controlled by data controller
	Publication procedure	PCA data are made available to DH on request for management purposes before and after publication. Data for the final quarter of each year and for the whole year is withheld until after publication. A little data is published, i.e. made available to the public, through Prescription Services' website.

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	Timing/Periodicity of public release	On a monthly basis.
	Nature of changes to system that could impact on statistics	Re-organisation of BNF sections
Section 3: Change Process	Data is only national so there has been no problem with any re-organisation	
Section 4: The subsequent statistical production process	Validation procedures	Data is independently extracted by another member of staff and compared with initial extraction. Results compared with previous year and any suspect differences raised with the data supplier .
	Quality assessment	Prescription Services have an accuracy target of payments to dispensers being between 99.8% and 100.2% of the “true” payment as determined by a statistical process.
	Periodicity of release	Annual in April
	Potential impact of changes to the source on the statistics produced	Minor changes to BNF not likely to be a problem. Major changes to BNF would cause a discontinuity.
	Procedures for mitigating such discontinuities	Not possible to mitigate major changes as it would be confusing to users to present the data in line with an out of date structure.

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