

# Statement of Administrative Sources

**Annex B: Supporting metadata  
GP Practice Level Prescribing Data**

**Author: Kate Croft  
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## Statement of Administrative Sources

<b>Organisation</b>	The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) <a href="http://www.hscic.gov.uk/">http://www.hscic.gov.uk/</a>	
<b>Enquiries</b>	Please contact the Health and Social Care Information Centre Contact centre Telephone: 0845 300 6016 and email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@hscic.gov.uk">enquiries@hscic.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Responsible Statistician</b>	Name: Kate Croft Section: Prescribing Team	
<b>Section 1: Statistical End Product</b>	GP Practice Level prescribing data released under Open Data.	
<b>Section 2: Original Administrative/Management Source/System</b>	Name	ePACT system
	Name of the organisation responsible	Prescription Services, NHS Business Services Authority
	Purpose of the administrative source	Re-imburement to pharmacies
	Unit of Inquiry	Prescription
	Intended Coverage	All dispensed prescriptions prescribed in England
	Actual Coverage	As above
	Geographical Coverage	England
	Lowest level of Geographical Coverage	CCG, in terms of a geographical area, practice in terms of location
	Extent to which statistical end-producers can influence system?	Quarterly liaison meetings between HSCIC, Department of Health (DH) and Prescription Services
	Data definitions used	Data held in Prescription Services database is described at <a href="http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/815.aspx">http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/815.aspx</a>
	Classification systems used	British National Formulary published by British Medical Association and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, see <a href="http://www.bnf.org.uk">www.bnf.org.uk</a>
	Data Collection Process	1)Periodicity/Timing 2)Validation process
Access Arrangements	Controlled by data controller	

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	Dissemination Procedures	ePACT data are made available to DH, Area Teams, CCGs and GP practice level by NHS Prescription Services
	Publication procedure	Some data is published, on NHS Prescription Services' website
	Timing/Periodicity of public release	On a monthly basis.
	Nature of changes to system that could impact on statistics	Re-organisation of BNF sections, reorganisation of NHS bodies, practice changes.
<b>Section 3: Change Process</b>	So far there has been no problem with any re-organisation. It is unlikely that data aggregated to a new structure would be available if any re-organisation took place. There would therefore be a discontinuity in the time series.	
<b>Section 4: The subsequent statistical production process</b>	Validation procedures	Data is independently extracted by another member of staff and compared with initial extraction. Results are compared with previous extracts and any changes which cause concern are taken up with the data supplier.
	Quality assessment	NHS Prescription Services have stated that due to the complex and manual processes involved there may be inaccuracies in capturing prescription information which are then reflected in the data. Internal quality assurance processes exist and currently the prescription processing activity is internally audited to 98.5 per cent accuracy (i.e. at least 98.5 per cent of prescriptions are recorded accurately).
	Periodicity of release	Monthly.
	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 or to CCG structure would cause a discontinuity.
	Procedures for mitigating such discontinuities	We would estimate impact and provide conversion if required/appropriate, methodology change notices and liaison with stakeholders