

Statement of Administrative Sources

Annex B: Supporting metadata

Prescriptions Dispensed in the Community, England

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Organisation	The Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) http://www.hscic.gov.uk/	
Enquiries	Please contact the Health and Social Care Information Centre Contact centre Telephone: 0845 300 6016 and email: enquiries@hscic.gov.uk	
Responsible Statistician	Name: Kate Croft Section: Prescribing Team	
Section 1: Statistical End Product	Prescriptions Dispensed in the Community, England	
Section 2: Original Administrative/Management Source/System	Name	Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA)
	Name of the organisation responsible	NHS Prescription Services, NHS Business Services Authority
	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 HSCIC, Department of Health (DH) and NHS Prescription Services
	Data definitions used	Items, quantity and cost. See BSA website for details of contents of database: http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/Documents/PCA_Glossary_V2_-_04-06-13.doc
	Classification systems used	British National Formulary published by the British Medical Association and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, see www.bnf.org.uk
	Data	1)Periodicity/Timing

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	Collection Process	2)Validation process	quarter. We are reliant on Prescription Services' quality control. Data is added to HSCIC system and then compared against figures from Prescription Services published reports.
	Access Arrangements		Controlled by data controller
	Dissemination Procedures		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.
	Publication procedure		Data is published on the 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
Section 3: Change Process	Data is 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	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	Annual in July	
	Potential impact of changes to the	Minor changes to BNF not likely to be a problem. Major changes to BNF would cause a discontinuity.	

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	source on the statistics produced	
	Procedures for mitigating such discontinuities	We would estimate impact and provide conversion if required/appropriate, methodology change notices and liaison with stakeholders