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All Wales Therapeutics & Toxicology Centre
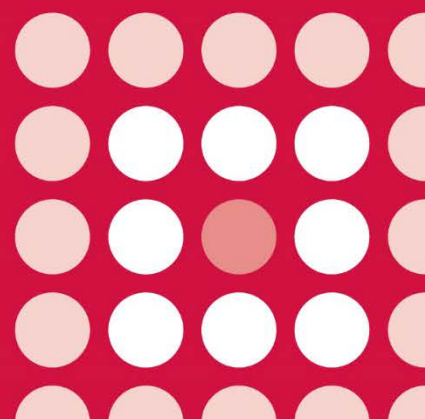Canolfan Therapiwteg a Thocsicoleg Cymru Gyfan

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National Prescribing Indicators 2019–2020 Specifications

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This document has been prepared by the Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit (WAPSU), part of the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC).

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INTRODUCTION

The [National Prescribing Indicators (NPIs) 2019–2020](#) were developed by the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group (AWPAG), and underwent a period of consultation prior to their endorsement by the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG).

This supplementary document details the specifications of each NPI including data source, drug baskets and targets/thresholds[*] as appropriate for the NPIs 2019–2020.

For each NPI with a threshold, this is set at the 75th percentile (i.e. the prescribing rate of the best performing 25% of practices), for the quarter ending 31st December 2018. Unless otherwise stated, the threshold is based on prescribing data for all general practices in Wales.

For those NPIs with a drug basket, the British National Formulary (BNF) medicine name and associated BNF coding structure within the Comparative Analysis System for Prescribing Audit (CASPA) have been listed for each medicine.

It should be noted that some of the drug baskets may contain medicines that have been discontinued. These are kept in the drug baskets for purposes of historic reporting and also to identify any prescribing of discontinued medicines.

NPI quarterly reports detailing health board values will be produced for quarters ending June 2019, September 2019, December 2019 and March 2020.

NPI data for GP practices, primary care clusters and health boards are available on the [Server for Prescribing Information Reporting and Analysis (SPIRA)](#).

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[*] Targets for 4C antimicrobials are practice specific and will made available via SPIRA.

1.0 SAFETY INDICATORS

1.1 PRESCRIBING SAFETY INDICATORS

Data source: NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS)

Unit of measure:
1. Number of patients with a peptic ulcer who have been prescribed NSAIDs without a PPI as a percentage of all patients.
2. Number of patients with asthma who have been prescribed a beta-blocker as a percentage of all patients.
3. Number of patients with concurrent prescriptions of verapamil and a beta-blocker as a percentage of all patients.
4. Number of female patients with a past medical history of venous or arterial thrombosis who have been prescribed combined hormonal contraceptives, as a percentage of all female patients.
5. Number of female patients with a current prescription of oestrogen-only hormone replacement therapy without any hysterectomy READ/SNOMED codes, as a percentage of all female patients.
6. Number of patients with concurrent prescriptions of warfarin and an oral NSAID as a percentage of all patients.
7. Number of patients under 12 with a current prescription of aspirin as a percentage of all patients.
8. Number of patients aged 65 years or over prescribed an NSAID plus aspirin and/or clopidogrel but without gastroprotection (PPI or H_2 receptor antagonist), as a percentage of all patients aged 65 years or over.
9. Number of patients aged 65 years or over prescribed an antipsychotic, as a percentage of all patients aged 65 years or over.
10. Number of patients aged 75 and over with an Anticholinergic Effect on Cognition (AEC) score of 3 or more for items on active repeat, as a percentage of all patients aged 75 and over.
11. Number of patients on the CKD register (CKD stage 3–5) who have received a repeat prescription for an NSAID within the last 3 months, as a percentage of all patients on the CKD register.
12. Number of patients who are not on the CKD register but have an eGFR of < 59 ml/min and have received a repeat prescription for an NSAID within the last 3 months, as a percentage of all patients who are not on the CKD register but have an eGFR of < 59 ml/min.
13. Number of female patients aged 14–45 with a prescription for sodium valproate as a percentage of all patients with a prescription for sodium valproate.

Target for 2019–2020: No target set.

Numerators and denominators: As per individual Prescribing Safety Indicator. READ codes for medicines used in searches are available on request.

1.2 PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS

Data source: NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP)

Unit of measure: Proton pump inhibitor (PPI) defined daily doses (DDDs) per 1,000 prescribing units (PUs).

Target for 2019–2020: Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile (threshold: 5,954 DDDs per 1,000 PUs), or show a reduction towards the quartile below.

Numerator
DDDs of PPIs

BNF Code	BNF Level	BNF Name
0103050	BNF sub section	Proton Pump Inhibitors

Denominator
1,000 PUs

1.3 HYPNOTICS AND ANXIOLYTICS

Data source: NWSSP

Unit of measure: Hypnotic and anxiolytic average daily quantities (ADQs) per 1,000 specific therapeutic group age–sex related prescribing units (STAR-PUs).

Target for 2019–2020: Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile (threshold: 1,889 ADQs per 1,000 STAR-PUs), or show a reduction towards the quartile below.

Numerator
ADQs of a user-defined group (UDG) of hypnotic and anxiolytic medicines

BNF Code	BNF Level	BNF Name
0401010L0	BNF chemical	Flurazepam Hydrochloride
0401010N0	BNF chemical	Loprazolam Mesilate
0401010P0	BNF chemical	Lormetazepam
0401010R0	BNF chemical	Nitrazepam
0401010T0	BNF chemical	Temazepam
0401010W0	BNF chemical	Zaleplon
0401010Y0	BNF chemical	Zolpidem Tartrate
0401010Z0	BNF chemical	Zopiclone
0401020D0	BNF chemical	Chlordiazepoxide
0401020E0	BNF chemical	Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride
0401020K0	BNF chemical	Diazepam
0401020P0	BNF chemical	Lorazepam
0401020T0	BNF chemical	Oxazepam

Denominator
1,000 STAR-PUs

1.4 ANALGESICS

1.4.1 OPIOID BURDEN

Data source: NWSSP

Unit of measure: Opioid burden ADQs per 1,000 patients.

Target for 2019–2020: Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile (threshold: 3,669 ADQs per 1,000 patients), or show a reduction towards the quartile below.

Numerator
ADQs of a UDG of opioid medicines.

BNF Code	BNF Level	BNF Name
0407020	Sub-section	Opioid Analgesics
0407010F0	Chemical	Co-codamol (codeine phos/paracetamol)

Denominator
1,000 patients

1.4.2 TRAMADOL

Data source: NWSSP

Unit of measure: Tramadol DDDs per 1,000 patients.

Target for 2019–2020: Maintain performance levels within lower quartile (threshold: 375 DDDs per 1,000 patients), or show a reduction towards the quartile below.

Numerator
DDDs of tramadol

BNF Code	BNF Level	BNF Name
040702040	BNF chemical	Tramadol Hydrochloride

Denominator
1,000 patients

1.4.3 GABAPENTIN AND PREGABALIN

Data source: NWSSP

Unit of measure: Gabapentin and pregabalin DDDs per 1,000 patients.

Target for 2019–2020: Maintain performance levels within lower quartile (threshold: 1,125 DDDs per 1,000 patients), or show a reduction towards the quartile below.

Numerator
DDDs of gabapentin and pregabalin

BNF Code	BNF Level	BNF Name
0408010G0	BNF chemical	Gabapentin
0408010AE	BNF chemical	Pregabalin
0407030AA	BNF chemical	Pregabalin

Denominator
1,000 patients

1.4 YELLOW CARDS

Data source: Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

Unit of measure: Number of Yellow Cards submitted, per GP practice, per health board and per hospital.
Number of Yellow Cards submitted by Community Pharmacies, per health board.

Target for 2019–2020:
- GP practices: Submit one Yellow Card per 2,000 GP practice population.
- Health boards:
    - Submit one Yellow Card per 2,000 health board population.
    - Demonstrate a 20%, or greater, increase from baseline (2018–2019), for Yellow Cards submitted by secondary care.
    - Demonstrate a 50%, or greater, increase from baseline (2018–2019), for Yellow Cards submitted by members of the public.
- Community pharmacy: no target set

2.0 ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP INDICATORS

2.1 TOTAL ANTIBACTERIAL ITEMS

Data source: NWSSP

Unit of measure: Total antibacterial items per 1,000 STAR-PUs.

Target for 2019–2020: A quarterly health board reduction of 5% against a baseline of data from April 2017–March 2018.

	Quarter ending June		Quarter ending September		Quarter ending December		Quarter ending March	
	2017 data	2019 target	2017 data	2019 target	2017 data	2019 target	2018 data	2020 target
ABMU†	312	296	302	287	349	332	366	348
Aneurin Bevan	294	279	287	272	331	315	339	322
Betsi Cadwaladr	290	276	277	263	307	291	325	309
Cardiff and Vale	273	260	268	255	310	294	317	301
Cwm Taf†	317	301	311	296	356	338	374	356
Hywel Dda	297	282	293	278	335	318	353	335
Powys	250	238	251	238	274	260	282	268

Numerator
All antibacterial items

BNF Code	BNF Level	BNF Name
0501	BNF section	Antibacterial drugs

Denominator
1,000 STAR-PUs

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† Targets for Abertawe Bro Morgannwg and Cwm Taf University Health Boards are based on the health board boundary changes due to take effect from 1st April 2019.

2.2 4C ANTIMICROBIALS

Data source: NWSSP

Unit of measure: Co-amoxiclav, cephalosporin, fluoroquinolone and clindamycin items combined, per 1,000 patients.

Target for 2019–2020: A quarterly reduction of 10% against a baseline of data from April 2017–March 2018.

Numerator
Items of co-amoxiclav, cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones and clindamycin

BNF Code	BNF Level	BNF Name
0501013K0	BNF chemical	Co-Amoxiclav (amoxicillin/clavul Acid)
0501020B0	BNF chemical	Cefaclor
0501020D0	BNF chemical	Cefadroxil
0501020E0	BNF chemical	Cefixime
0501020F0	BNF chemical	Cefotaxime sodium
0501020I0	BNF chemical	Cefpodoxime
0501020K0	BNF chemical	Ceftriaxone sodium
0501020L0	BNF chemical	Ceftazidime Pentahydrate
0501020P0	BNF chemical	Cefuroxime sodium
0501020Q0	BNF chemical	Cefuroxime axetil
0501020R0	BNF chemical	Cefalexin
0501020W0	BNF chemical	Cefradine
0501021	BNF sub section	Cephalosporins
0501120	BNF subsection	Quinolones
0501060	BNF sub section	Clindamycin

Denominator
1,000 patients

3.0 EFFICIENCY INDICATORS

3.1 BIOSIMILARS

Data source: NWIS

Unit of measure: Quantity of biosimilar medicines prescribed as a percentage of total 'reference' product plus biosimilar.

Target for 2019–2020: Increase the appropriate use of cost-efficient biological medicines, including biosimilar medicines.

For the current basket of biological medicines used in the biosimilar NPI (infliximab, etanercept, rituximab, trastuzumab and adalimumab) only secondary care data, accessed via the Medusa data warehouse, are required. It is essential that the brand name of the biosimilar medicine being supplied is clearly described on data entry to facilitate the data extraction to the Medusa data warehouse. Where 'home' appears within the description name this will be assumed to imply the supply is through Homecare delivery.

For each biological medicine:

Numerator
Quantity of biosimilar biological product(s)

Denominator
Total quantity of biosimilar product(s) plus 'reference' product

3.2 INSULIN

Data source: NWSSP and NWIS

Unit of measure: Items/number of long-acting insulin analogues as a percentage of total long- and intermediate-acting insulin prescribed.

Target for 2019–2020: Reduce prescribing of long-acting insulin analogues and achieve prescribing levels below the Welsh average.

Numerator

BNF Code	BNF Level	BNF Name
060102Z0	BNF chemical	Insulin Degludec
0601012AA	BNF chemical	Insulin Degludec and liraglutide
0601012X0	BNF chemical	Insulin Detemir
0601012V0	BNF chemical	Insulin Glargine
0601012G0	BNF chemical	Insulin Zinc suspension
0601012L0	BNF chemical	Insulin Zinc suspension (Amorphous)
0601012N0	BNF chemical	Insulin Zinc suspension (Crystalline)
0601012U0	BNF chemical	Protamine Zinc Insulin

Denominator

BNF Code	BNF Level	BNF Name
060102Z0	BNF chemical	Insulin Degludec
0601012AA	BNF chemical	Insulin Degludec and liraglutide
0601012X0	BNF chemical	Insulin Detemir
0601012V0	BNF chemical	Insulin Glargine
0601012G0	BNF chemical	Insulin Zinc suspension
0601012L0	BNF chemical	Insulin Zinc suspension (Amorphous)
0601012N0	BNF chemical	Insulin Zinc suspension (Crystalline)
0601012U0	BNF chemical	Protamine Zinc Insulin
0601012S0	BNF chemical	Isophane Insulin

For secondary care data the same item names are utilised in the Medusa data warehouse.