



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

In focus report: Phenoxymethylpenicillin prescribing in Wales

April 2026



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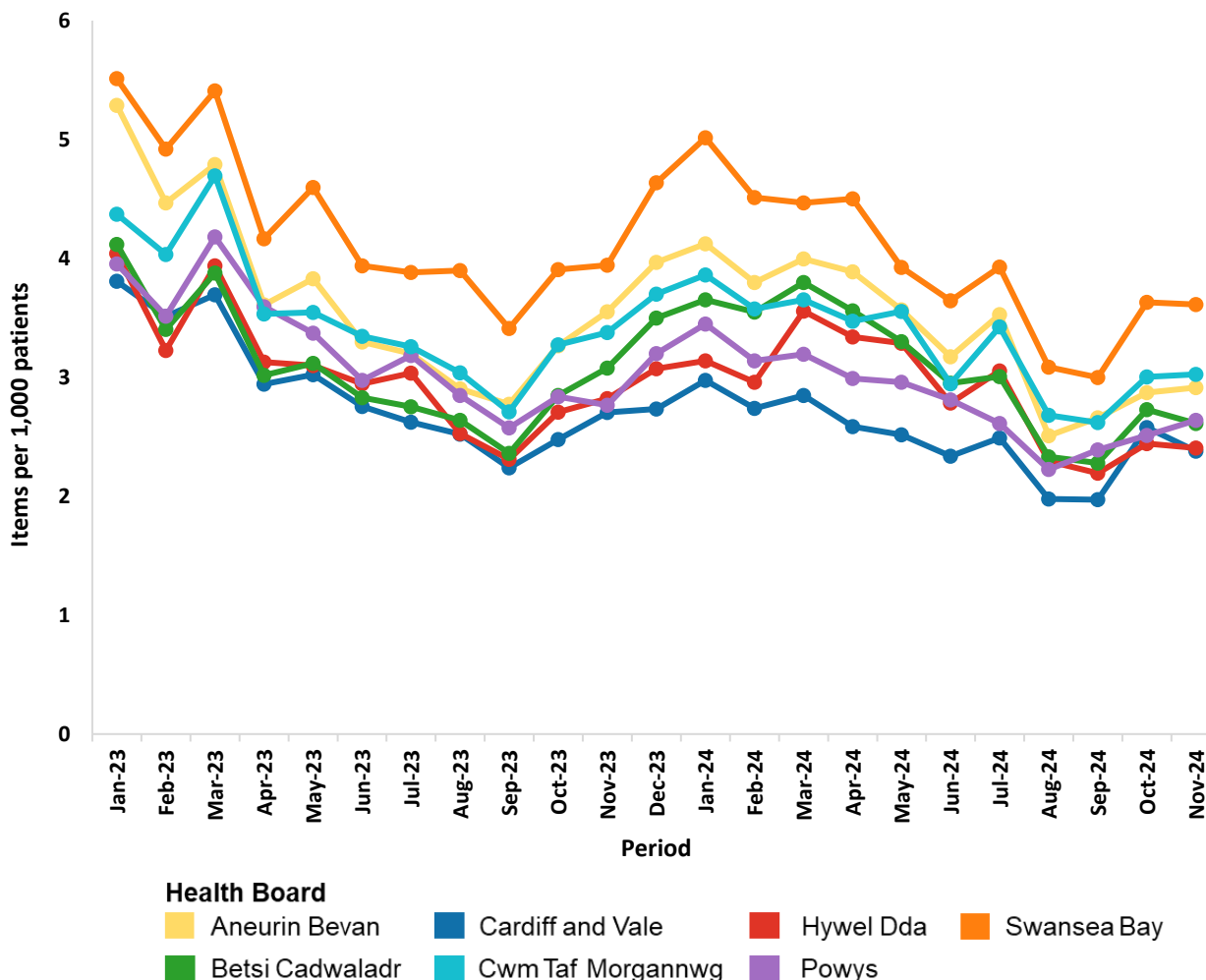
Data presented within this report are also accessible via the Server for Prescribing Information Reporting and Analysis (SPIRA) at spira.uk/info.

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Phenoxymethylpenicillin prescribing in Wales

The aim of this paper is to examine prescribing of phenoxymethylpenicillin (Penicillin V) across Wales. In 2024 123,858 items of Penicillin V 250mg tablets were prescribed by GP practices and supplied by the Sore Throat Test and Treat [STTT] service across Wales.

Figure 1. Trend in Penicillin V items (includes items prescribed by GP practices and supplied by the Sore Throat Test and Treat [STTT] service) per 1,000 patients¹



According to the AWMSG [Primary Care Antimicrobial Guidelines](#) Penicillin V is recommended for first line treatment of sore throat in patients with FeverPAIN score 4 or 5 or Centor score 3 or 4. It should be prescribed for a 5-day duration unless the patient is immunocompromised, has confirmed Group A Streptococcus infection or has a problematic recurrence of infection in which case a 10-day duration should be prescribed.

This report is only looking at prescribing of Penicillin V 250mg tablets. The recommended dose for adults is 500mg four times daily or 1g twice daily, which equates to 2g (8 tablets) per day.

¹ For STTT data, this assumes that Penicillin V was supplied to patients within the same health board as the pharmacy location

Prescribing data is not available by indication. Therefore, the data presented is based on quantity of tablets prescribed per prescription.

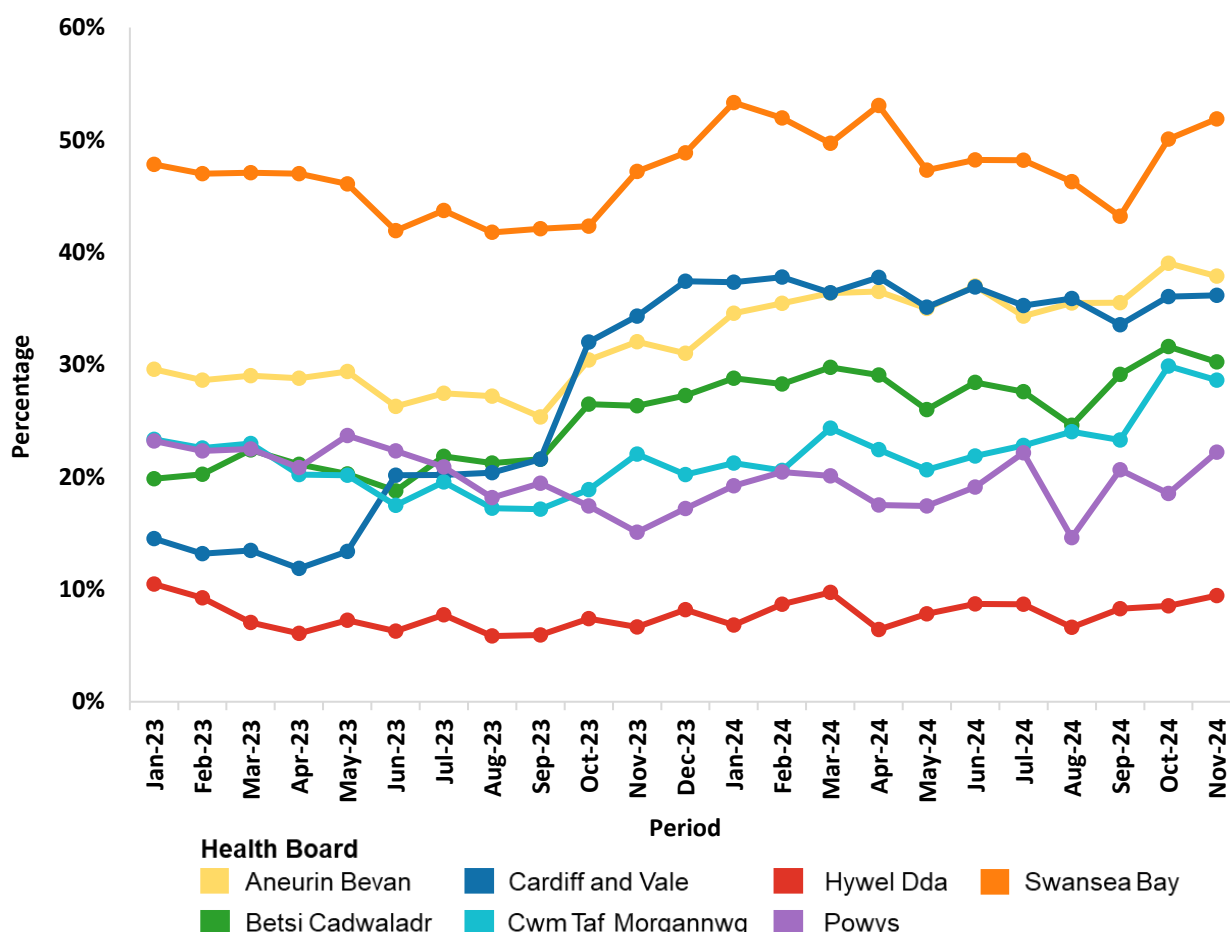
- A quantity of 40 tablets is assumed to be a 5-day course for a sore throat²
- A quantity of 80 tablets is assumed to be a 10-day course for a sore throat

The community pharmacy-led Sore Throat Test and Treat (STTT) service in Wales allows pharmacists to undertake a structured clinical assessment and a point-of-care test (POCT) for Group A Streptococcus infection, and to supply antibiotics for those in whom Group A Streptococcus infection is detected. The STTT service can therefore only supply a 10-day course duration.

Penicillin V data presented in this report includes items prescribed by GP practices and community pharmacy supply, via the STTT service. For all the figures in this report STTT supply is included in the denominator, for Figure 3 it is also included in the numerator.

Figure 2 shows the percentage of all Penicillin V as a quantity of 40 tablets (five-day duration for adults or 10-day duration for children) for each health board.

Figure 2. Trend in quantity of 40 tablets (five-day duration) as a percentage of all 250mg Penicillin V



² This could also reflect a 10-day course for a child aged 6-11 years

[Figure 3](#) shows the percentage of all Penicillin V as a quantity of 80 tablets (10-day duration) for each health board. [Figure 4](#) shows a breakdown of a quantity of 80 (10-day duration) prescribed by GP practices and supplied by the STTT service.

Figure 3. Trend in quantity of 80 tablets (10-day duration) as a percentage of all 250mg Penicillin V

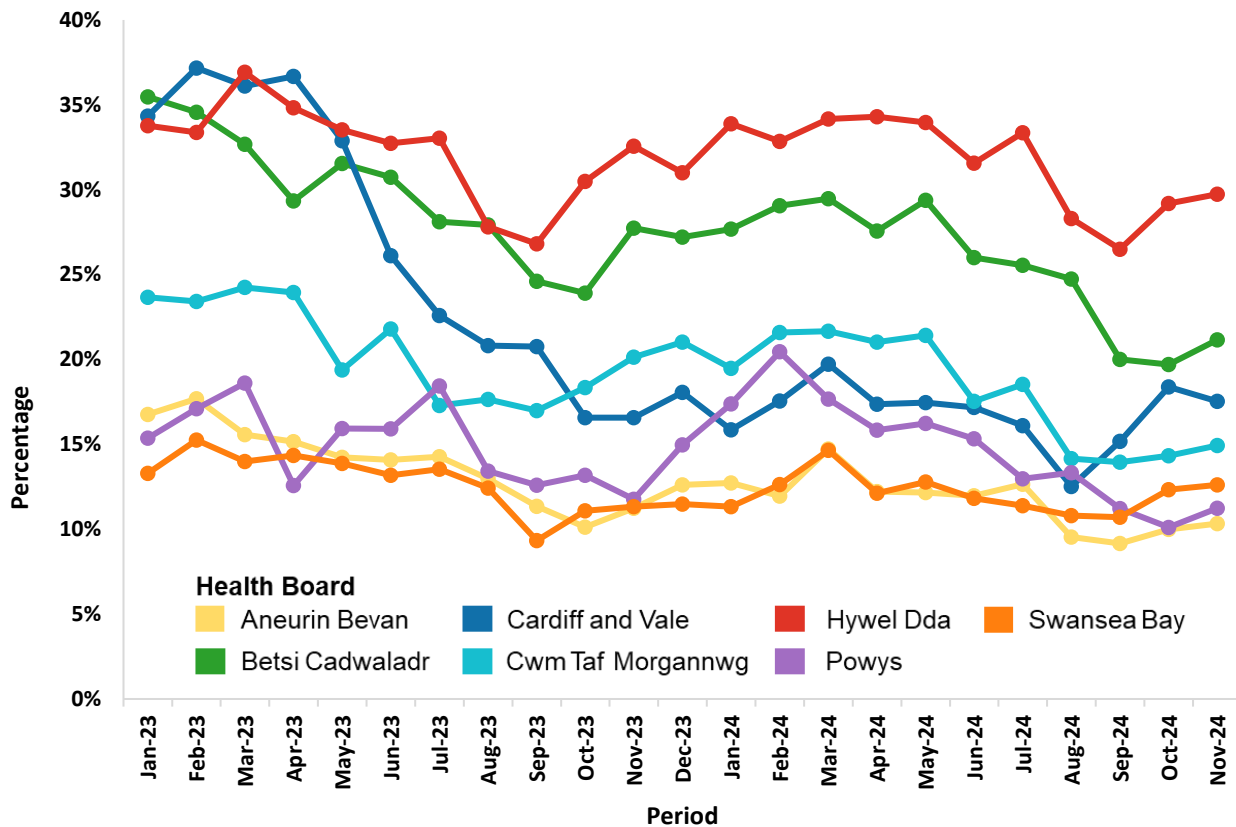
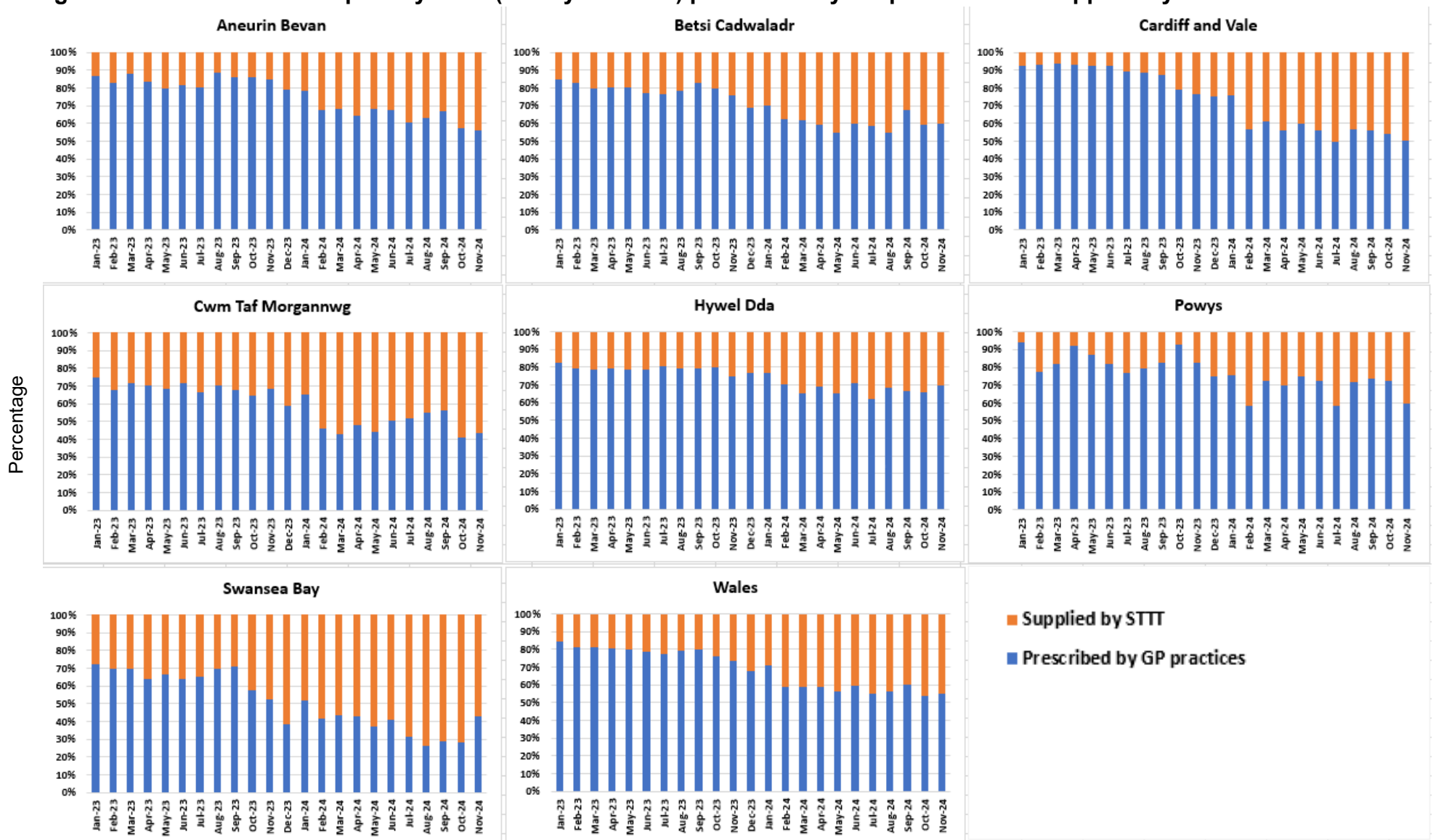
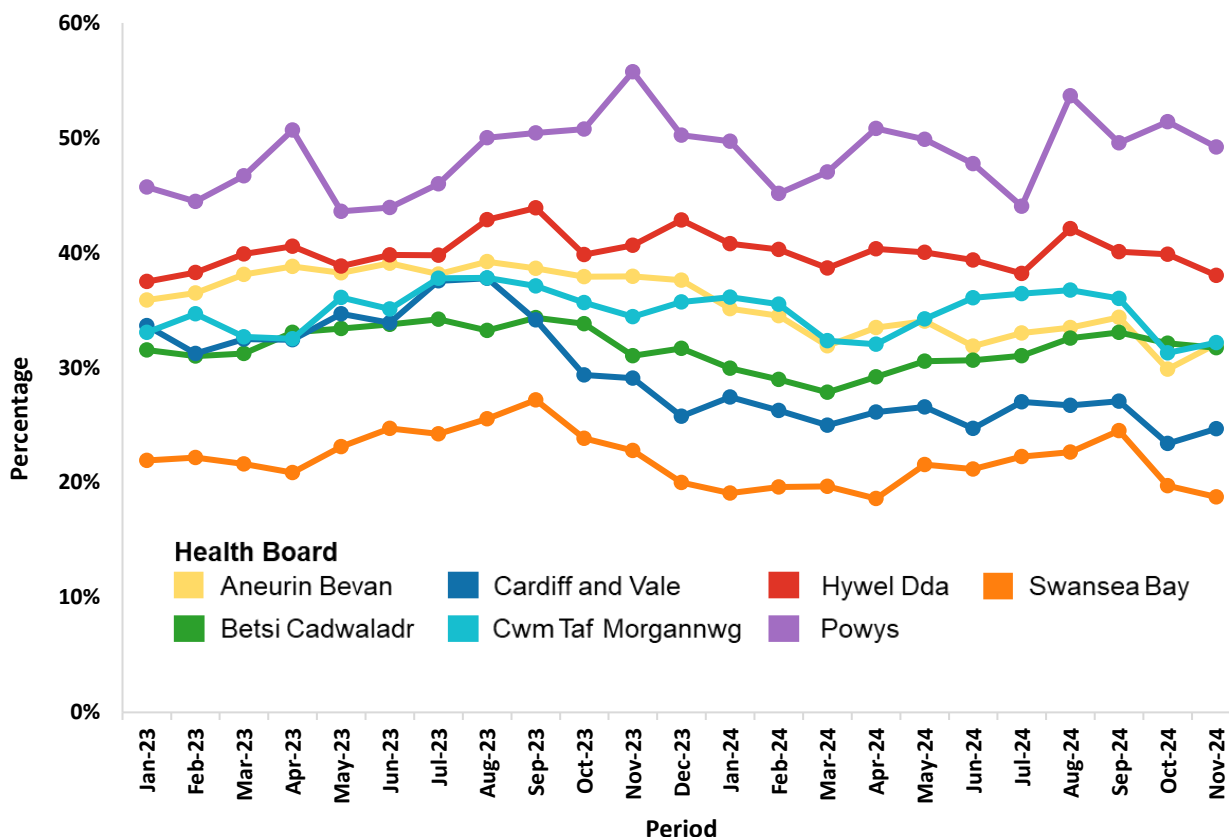


Figure 4. A breakdown of a quantity of 80 (10-day duration) prescribed by GP practices and supplied by the STTT service.



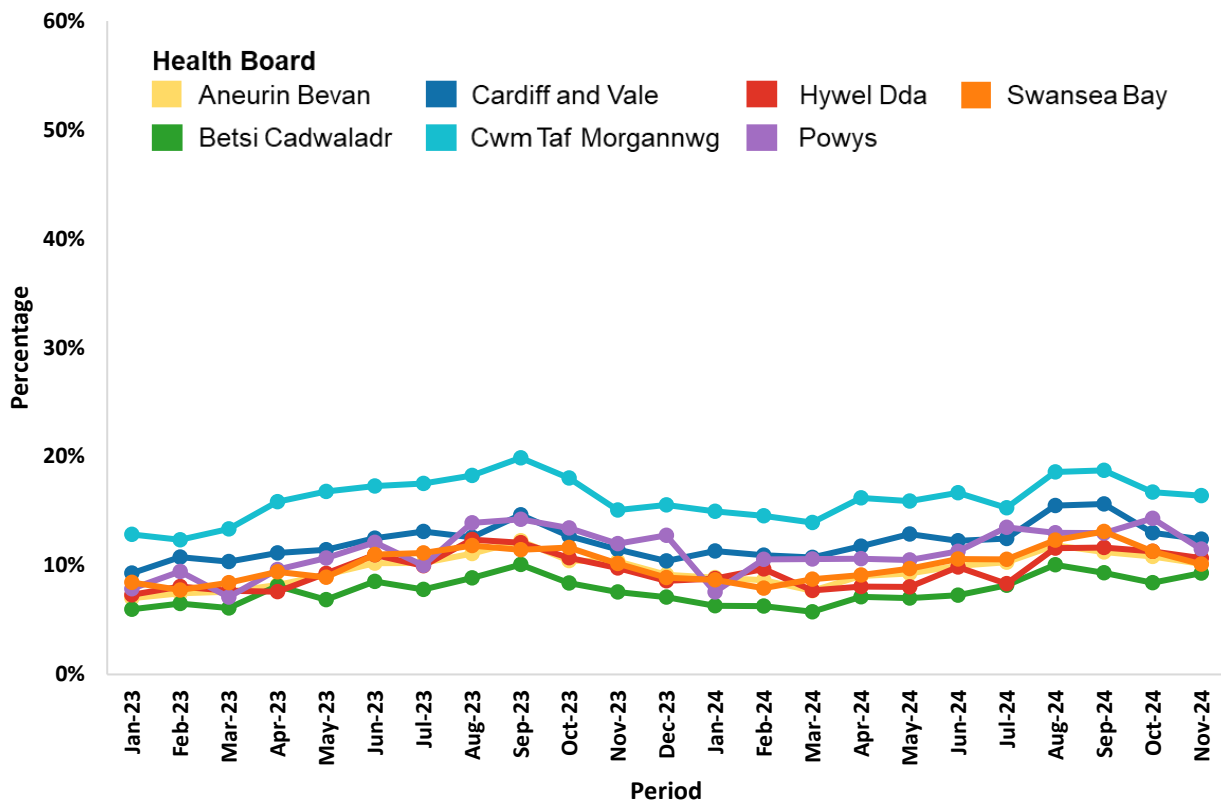
Penicillin V is also licensed and used for the prevention of pneumococcal infection in asplenia or in patients with sickle-cell disease. In these cases, the recommended dose for adults is 250mg twice daily (2 tablets per day). This treatment can continue for months or years and in some cases lifelong. Therefore, a quantity of 56 tablets could be 7-day course for sore throat, despite guidelines recommending a 5- or 10-day duration or it could be 28-day prescribing for prophylaxis. [Figure 5](#) shows the percentage of all penicillin V prescribed with a quantity of 56 tablets for each health board.

Figure 5. A quantity of 56 tablets as a percentage of all 250mg Penicillin V



Given that prescribing of Penicillin V for prophylaxis is likely to be longer-term [Figure 6](#) shows the percentage of all Penicillin V prescribed as a quantity of 112 (56 days), 168 (84 days) and 224 (112 days).

Figure 6. A quantity of 112, 168 and 224 tablets as a percentage of all 250mg Penicillin V



[Figure 7](#) shows a trend in Penicillin V 250mg tablets by quantity and health board. This graph shows quantity of 40 (five-day prescribing), quantity of 80 (ten-day prescribing) from GP, quantity of 80 (ten-day prescribing) from STTT, quantity of 56 (potential seven-day prescribing), quantity of 112, 168 and 224 (longer-term prescribing for prophylaxis) and other quantities. Other quantities include those greater than 224 (possibly for off label prescribing in cellulitis) as well as lower quantities, as would be expected for prescribing in children aged 6-11 years.

Figure 7. Trend in Penicillin V 250mg tablets by quantity and health board

