



The University of Sydney  
at Westmead Hospital

General Practice Statistics and Classification Unit  
Family Medicine Research Unit Department of General Practice

*A collaborating unit of the*  
Australian Institute of Health and Welfare



# BEACH

*BETTERING THE EVALUATION AND CARE OF HEALTH*

**SUMMARY MEDICATION REPORT for GP DIVISIONS**

**ANTIBIOTICS IN GENERAL PRACTICE**

*(EXCLUDING ANTI-FUNGALS)*

**Data period: April 01 – Mar 02**



February 2003

Enquiries to: A/Professor Helena Britt

Telephone: (02) 9845 8159

The details of the methods use in BEACH can be found in any of the AIHW general practice publications. These can be accessed through our web site: [www.fmrc.org.au](http://www.fmrc.org.au). You can click on the most recent annual report listed in the Publications page and this will link directly to the book. The most recent annual report is *Britt H, Miller GC, Knox S, Charles J, Lisa V, Henderson J, et al. 2002. General practice activity in Australia 2001-02. AIHW Cat. No. GEP 10. Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (General Practice Series No. 10). ISBN 1 74024 217 3. ISSN 1442 3022*

## Background

This report represents a summary of the data collected from April 2001 to Mar 2002 inclusive. It provides information on the prescribing of Statins

Total number of GPs participating in BEACH in this period: 983.

The total number of encounters for this period: 98,300

The participating GPs are randomly selected from the HIC list of active GPs (those who provided more than 375 GP services in the previous quarter).

The research instrument used for each consultation is a single page recording form containing the following variables:

- date of encounter
- service item number/form of payment/indirect encounters (e.g. telephone consults)
- patient age and sex
- patient status to practice (new or seen before)
- health care card status of patient
- patient post code and ethnic background
- patient's reasons for encounter (up to three)
- diagnoses/problems managed (up to four)
- status of each problem to the patient (new/old)
- whether problems are work related
- medications prescribed (up to 4 per problem)
- over the counter medications recommended
- medications provided by the GP
- brand name, strength and regimen of medication
- number of repeats for medication
- medication status - new or continued
- other treatments (up to 2 per problem)
- tests and investigations ordered, referrals and hospital admissions.

## Summary medications – Antibiotics (excluding anti-fungals) Apr 01-Mar 02

Table 1 provides the overall prescription/supply/advise over the counter purchase rates of antibiotics. It includes a count of the total number of prescriptions for the selected medication during the time period and a breakdown of the number recorded by the GP as a generic name and the relative rate of prescription of each of the brand names for this generic. The prescribing rates are presented in terms of the rate per 100 BEACH encounters, the rate per 100 problems managed (all types) and the percentage of all medications that is accounted for by this medication and the percentage of all drugs in this class. The column titled "National Estimated encs" gives the estimated number of encounters in a year for Australian general practice, at which this drug is prescribed. It is calculated by multiplying the encounter rate by the number of consultations that are carried out in general practice each year about 105 million.

**Results:** Antibiotics (excluding anti-fungals) were prescribed at a rate of 14.1 per 100 encounters and at a rate of 9.8 per 100 problems managed. They accounted for 13.5% of all medications prescribed/supplied for all problems. National estimates suggest a total of 14.8 million occasions on which GPs prescribed/supplied an antibiotic during 2001-02. Amoxicillin accounted for 21.7% of these medications (alone accounting for almost 3% of all medications for all problems). This was followed by Cephalexin (11.5%), roxithromycin (10.4%), Cefaclor monohydrate (8.0%), doxycycline (5.8%) and Erythromycin (4.4%). Together these made up approximately two thirds of all antibiotics recorded.

**Table 1: Summary medications - Antibiotics**

Generic Drug	n	Total per 100 encs	Total per 100 probs	Total % drugs	% Antibiotics	National estimated encs
Total Antibiotics	13661	14.09	9.82	13.48		14800000
Amoxicillin	2964.9	3.06	2.13	2.93	21.7	3210000
Cephalexin	2041.9	2.11	1.47	2.01	14.95	2210000
Roxithromycin	1426.2	1.47	1.03	1.41	10.44	1540000
Cefaclor monohydrate	1093.6	1.13	0.79	1.08	8.01	1180000
Doxycycline	802.22	0.83	0.58	0.79	5.87	868600
Erythromycin	605.01	0.62	0.43	0.6	4.43	655100
Penicillin V (phenoxymethyl be	476.87	0.49	0.34	0.47	3.49	516300
Trimethoprim	417.35	0.43	0.3	0.41	3.06	451900
Dicloxacillin	410.56	0.42	0.3	0.41	3.01	444500
Cotrimoxazole (Trimethoprim+Su	319.4	0.33	0.23	0.32	2.34	345800
Clarithromycin	310.22	0.32	0.22	0.31	2.27	335900
Flucloxacillin	280.84	0.29	0.2	0.28	2.06	304100
Procaine penicillin	115.5	0.12	0.08	0.11	0.85	125100
Minocycline	103.26	0.11	0.07	0.1	0.76	111800
Norfloxacin	90.616	0.09	0.07	0.09	0.66	98100
Cefuroxime axetil	72.202	0.07	0.05	0.07	0.53	78200
Ciprofloxacin	71.079	0.07	0.05	0.07	0.52	77000
Tetracycline phosphate	51.251	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.38	55500
Tetracycline	36.787	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.27	39800
Penicillins/Cephalosporins	31.62	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.23	34200
Azithromycin	30.479	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.22	33000
Ceftriaxone	20.944	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.15	22700
Fusidic acid/sodium fusidate	11.963	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.09	13000
Gentamicin sulfate	7.8244	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.06	8500
Benzylpenicillin	7.2304	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.05	7800
Rifampicin	7.2039	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.05	7800
Chloramphenicol - systemic	5.4988	0.01	0	0.01	0.04	6000
Cephalothin	4.2105	0	0	0	0.03	4600
Benzathine penicillin	3.5024	0	0	0	0.03	3800
Cefotaxime sodium	2.9303	0	0	0	0.02	3200
Moxifloxacin	2.6416	0	0	0	0.02	2900
Dapsone	2.3792	0	0	0	0.02	2600
Rifabutin	2.2309	0	0	0	0.02	2400
Neomycin sulfate oral	1.3629	0	0	0	0.01	1500
Other antibiotic	1.0629	0	0	0	0.01	1200
Demeclocycline	0.7708	0	0	0	0.01	800

## Summary of database: services and patients – antibiotics ( excl. anti-fungals) Apr 01-Mar 02

Table 2 provides a summary of the encounters and the characteristics of the patients for whom the selected medication was prescribed/provided.

Number of observations (n), rate per 100 encounters, 95 per cent confidence interval (CI) are provided for each data point.

The confidence interval (CI) is calculated as the rate estimate  $\pm$  (1.96 x standard error). The CI is interpreted as “we are 95 per cent confident that the true population value lies between the lower and upper value”. NB: CIs may be missing where data were insufficient to calculate a meaningful estimate.

- ◆ **Encounters** define the different types of services provided by the participating GPs during the course of their recording period. Only encounters where the selected medication was prescribed are included.
  - ◆ **Indirect services** occur when the patient is not actually seen by the GP (eg. telephone) but a clinical service is provided
  - ◆ **Surgery consults** are patient encounters that take place in the GP’s surgery and are covered by Medicare consultation item numbers.
  - ◆ **Home visits** are consultations that take place in the patient’s home and are covered by a Medicare home visit item number.
  - ◆ **Hospital** encounters take place with a patient in a hospital setting, and payment is from a Medicare hospital item number.
  - ◆ **Nursing home** consultations are those services covered by the relevant Medicare nursing home item numbers.
- ◆ **Patients** describes the characteristics of the patients for whom the selected medication was prescribed at encounter
  - ◆ **Gender and age** distributions are provided. The age groupings correspond with significant trends in GP service consumption.
  - ◆ **HCC Yes:** are encounters with patients who hold a health care card (HCC).
  - ◆ **VA gold card** and **VA white card** are encounters with patients who hold a Veteran’s Affair card (the encounter may not necessarily be claimed through VA in the case of white card holders).
  - ◆ **NESB** are encounters with patients whose primary language spoken at home is not English.
  - ◆ **Aboriginal** patients are those who identify as being Aboriginal.
  - ◆ **Torres Strait Islander** patients are those who identify as being Torres Strait Islander.

Number of observations (n), rate per 100 encounters, rate per 100 problems, 95 per cent confidence intervals (CI) are provided for each data point.

- ◆ **Problems managed** are the problems managed at the encounter, for which the selected drug or drug group was prescribed/provided.
  - ◆ **New problems** are those that have never been managed before by any doctor, or are first consultations for a new episode of a recurrent problem.
- ◆ **Medications:** Provides the total count of the number of the selected medication prescribed/provided. This number will agree with that in Table 0.
  - ◆ **Prescribed**
  - ◆ **Provided**
  - ◆ **Advised**
    - provides a count of the proportion of the total selected medication that was prescribed by the GP and the proportion that were provided by the GP (e.g. samples) and (where applicable) the proportion that were advised for purchase over-the counter.

Table 2 shows that 982 of the 983 participating GPs prescribed or supplied at least one antibiotic during their 100 recorded encounters. A statin was prescribed on 2,387 occasions.

**Results:** Ninety four percent of encounters at which an antibiotic was prescribed/provided were conducted in the surgery. The sex distribution of patients at these antibiotic encounters was normal ( approximately 40% being male). Children were over-represented at these encounters. And about 11% were aged less than 5 years ( compared with about 7% in the total data set, and 12% were aged between 5 and 14 years ( compared with 6.4% in the total data set. Young adults ( 15-24 were also somewhat over represented. The older age groups were under-represented in this antibiotic sub-set. This suggests that children and young adults are more likely to receive an antibiotic when they visit the Gp than are adults (perhaps reflecting more acute presentations and less chronic conditions in children). The characteristics of the patients receiving an antibiotic reflected those of the total sample in terms of their health care card status, their non-English speaking background status and their status to the practice. They reported an average number of reasons for encounter. 96.5% of the antibiotics were said to have been prescribed and the balance were supplied directly to the patient by the GP/(Table 2).

**Table 2: Summary of data base: services and patients - Antibiotics**

Data	n	Rate per 100 encs	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
General practitioners	982.12			
Encounters	13516			
- Indirect consults	129.52	1.04	0	3
- Surgery consults	1769	94.1	93.4	94.8
- Home visits	173.79	1.39	0	3.5
- Hospital	16.357	0.13	0	7.7
- Nursing home	115.45	0.92	0	4.5
- Worker's comp	26.683	0.21	0	3.3
- Other paid	78.944	0.63	0	6.7
- No charge	29.581	0.24	0	6
- Other Medicare items	168.18	1.34	0	9.5
- Missing	1008.5			
Patients	13516			
- Males	5748.6	42.82	41.7	43.9
- Females	7676.1	57.18	56	58.3
- Missing gender	91.292			
- <1 year	213.27	1.59	0.5	2.7
- 1-4 years	1260.2	9.39	8.4	10.4
- 5-14 years	1615.9	12.03	11.2	12.9
- 15-24 years	1748.1	13.02	12.2	13.9
- 25-44 years	3475.6	25.89	24.8	27
- 45-64 years	2840	21.15	20.3	22
- 65-74 years	1154.4	8.6	7.8	9.4
- 75+ years	1119.4	8.34	7.3	9.4
- Missing age	89.124			
- HCC Yes	5147	42.1	40.1	44.1
- VA card	291.94	2.43	1.2	3.7
- NESB	1226.2	9.07	2.7	15.4
- Aboriginal	187.14	1.55	0	6.1
- Torres Strait Islander	21.424	0.18	0	6
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Is	3.0223	0.03	0	7.2
- New to practice	1628	12.45	10.6	14.3
Reasons for encounter	21257	157.27	154.5	160.1
Problems managed	13537			
- New problems	9776.3	72.22	70.6	73.9
Medications	13661	100.91	100.7	101.1
- Prescribed	13057	96.45	95.6	97.3
- GP supplied	603.67	4.46	0	12.3

## Most frequent patient reasons for encounter – Antibiotics Apr 01-Mar 02

Up to three patient reasons for encounter (RFEs) can be recorded at each encounter. The patient RFE should be recorded by the GP in words as close as possible to those given by the patient. RFEs reflect the patient demand for care. There is not a one to one relationship between RFEs and problems managed. The relationship may be many-to-many, many-to-one or one-to-many. An RFE is not directly linked to a problem managed.

This Table gives the most frequent RFEs described by patients who were at encounters involving prescription/provision of the selected medication. The RFEs are presented in decreasing order of frequency. Data include: number of observations, per cent of all RFEs given at encounters involving the selected medication, the rate of presentation of each RFE per 100 encounters involving the selected medication, the lower and upper 95per cent confidence intervals.

Patient reasons for encounter and problems managed are classified by the International Classification of Primary Care- Version 2 (ICPC-2) (1999) (WONCA, World Organisation of Family Doctors).

If there are asterisks in this Table they tell you that the RFE label includes more than one ICPC-2 code. (For example *Hypertension\** includes both *uncomplicated hypertension* and *hypertension with complications*)

### Results:

The most common reasons for encounter recorded at those encounters at which an antibiotic was prescribed were cough ( 23.4 per 100 antibiotic encounters), throat symptoms/complaints (15.4 per 100), fever (7.0 per 100) and URTIs ( including ‘cold’) (6.8 per 100). The top 20 RFEs accounted for 67% of all RFEs recorded at these encounters (Table 3).

**Table 3: Most frequent patient reasons for encounter - Antibiotics**

RFE label	n	% of Antibiotics RFEs	Per 100 Antibiotics encs	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Cough	3162.5	14.88	23.4	21.9	24.9
Throat symptom/complaint	2086.1	9.81	15.43	14	16.9
Pain, ear/earache	942.45	4.43	6.97	6.1	7.8
Fever	912.55	4.29	6.75	5.3	8.2
Upper respiratory infection, acute	811.37	3.82	6	4.2	7.8
Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis	497.44	2.34	3.68	2	5.4
Prescription all*	478.85	2.25	3.54	2.3	4.7
Sneezing/nasal congestion	445.27	2.09	3.29	1.8	4.8
Dysuria/painful urination	417.7	1.96	3.09	2	4.2
UTI*	351.05	1.65	2.6	1.4	3.8
Headache	346.62	1.63	2.56	1.4	3.7
Rash*	328.71	1.55	2.43	1.3	3.6
Sinusitis acute/chronic	311.74	1.47	2.31	0.8	3.8
Skin infection, post traumatic	259.65	1.22	1.92	0.9	3
Urinary frequency/urgency	239.27	1.13	1.77	0.4	3.1
Test results*	226.92	1.07	1.68	0	3.3
Teeth/gum symptom/complaint	202.4	0.95	1.5	0	3.2
Abdominal pain*	193.45	0.91	1.43	0.2	2.7
Skin symptom/complaint	185.79	0.87	1.37	0	2.7
Foot & toe symptom/complaint	184.85	0.87	1.37	0.3	2.4
Asthma	174.22	0.82	1.29	0	2.6
Cardiac check-up*	172.97	0.81	1.28	0	2.9
Feeling ill	172.32	0.81	1.27	0	3.4
Back complaint*	169.81	0.8	1.26	0	2.6
Swelling*	166.84	0.78	1.23	0	2.6
Acne	165.84	0.78	1.23	0	2.5
Influenza	162.37	0.76	1.2	0	4.2
Wheezing	160.33	0.75	1.19	0	2.7
Tonsillitis*	158.39	0.75	1.17	0	3.7
Sinus symptom/complaint (incl pain)	154.35	0.73	1.14	0	2.4
Subtotal	14242	67			
Total RFEs	21257	100	157.27	154.5	160.1

### **Most common problems managed with antibiotics**

Up to four problems managed at each encounter can be recorded. The problem label is the classified description of the label given by the GP for the problem being managed with the selected medication.

Table 3 presents the most frequent problems managed with the selected medication, in decreasing order of frequency. Data include: number of observations, per cent of GPs (Percentage base = total number of GPs for this time period) who prescribed/supplied the drug for that particular problem; the per cent of total problems managed with the selected medication, lower and upper confidence intervals for this per cent. The last numeric column gives you the proportion of all problems of this type that received a script/were supplied with the selected medication.

If there are asterisks in this Table they tell you that the problem label includes more than one ICPC-2 code. (For example: *Hypertension\** includes both *uncomplicated hypertension* and *hypertension with complications*).

Results: ‘Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis’ was the most common problem for which antibiotics were prescribed/supplied (accounting for 15.7% of all problems managed with an antibiotic). This was followed by URTI ( 14.7%), urinary tract infections (8.4%), sinusitis (8.1%) acute otitis media (7.8%) and tonsillitis (7.4%).

The far right hand column shows that URTI was far less likely to generate a script for antibiotics ( 33%) when compared with acute bronchitis (80%), UTI ( 73%), sinusitis (82%), otitis media (83%) and tonsillitis ( 93%). The percent of GP column demonstrated that three quarters of the participating GPs prescribed an antibiotic for acute bronchitis on at least one occasion and 59.3% a prescribed one for URTI at least once during their 100 recorded encounters (Table 4).

**Table 4: Most common problems managed with antibiotics**

Problem label	n	% of GPs	% of Antibiotics problems	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	% of problem
Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis	2122.	73.45	15.68	14.4	16.9	80.3
Upper respiratory infection, acute	1994.	59.31	14.73	12.9	16.5	33.05
UTI*	1139.	63.68	8.42	7.7	9.2	73.26
Sinusitis acute/chronic	1089.	56.36	8.05	7.1	9	81.73
Acute otitis media/myringitis	1061.	53.51	7.84	7	8.7	83.4
Tonsillitis*	1006.	49.24	7.43	6	8.8	93.04
Skin infection, post traumatic	352.3	27.26	2.6	1.7	3.5	73.88
Boil/carbuncle	344.3	23.4	2.54	1.5	3.6	73.51
Teeth/gum disease	305.1	22.48	2.25	1.2	3.3	83.02
Respiratory infection, other	280.5	13.33	2.07	0	5.3	53.76
Skin infection, other	225.1	18.72	1.66	0.5	2.9	83.07
Asthma	218.2	15.87	1.61	0.1	3.1	7.92
Infected finger/toe	216.9	18.51	1.6	0.6	2.6	70.24
Acne	192.8	15.46	1.42	0.1	2.8	44.39
Impetigo	152.0	12.31	1.12	0	2.9	72.49
Pneumonia	151.4	12.72	1.12	0	2.8	64.99
Infectious disease, other/NOS	123.8	10.89	0.91	0	2.6	38.63
Otitis externa	113.9	9.66	0.84	0	2.2	15.73
Ingrowing nail	92.87	7.93	0.69	0	2.3	45.45
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	92.07	8.14	0.68	0	2.5	13.13
Chronic ulcer skin (incl varicose ulcer)	89.60	8.04	0.66	0	2.7	17.52
Laryngitis/tracheitis, acute	86.08	7.53	0.64	0	2.5	28.78
Cough	84.62	8.14	0.63	0	2.1	17.67
Throat symptom/complaint	68.84	5.6	0.51	0	3.8	38.23
Complication of treatment	67.0	6.41	0.5	0	2.5	22.5
Dermatitis, contact/allergic	66.77	5.7	0.49	0	2.3	3.66
Diverticular disease	64.80	6	0.48	0	2.7	36.68
Influenza	64.23	3.66	0.47	0	6.4	15.74
Mouth/tongue/lip disease	52.85	4.27	0.39	0	2.5	15.22
Immunisation all*	49.75	4.88	0.37	0	2.5	1.1
Sebaceous cyst	48.40	4.98	0.36	0	2.2	20.65
Respiratory disease, other	47.18	4.48	0.35	0	2.8	30.32
Breast symptom/complaint, other (female)	46.05	5.09	0.34	0	2.2	56.42
Prescription all*	45.08	4.07	0.33	0	4	2.5
Skin disease, other	44.95	4.27	0.33	0	2.7	6.88
Laceration/cut	38.52	3.97	0.28	0	2.6	5.84
Chronic otitis media	37.90	3.66	0.28	0	2.8	53.83
Blepharitis/stye/chalazion	37.65	3.15	0.28	0	2.6	19.02
Viral disease, other/NOS	36.11	2.85	0.27	0	4.4	2.54
Orchitis/epididymitis	34.20	3.46	0.25	0	2.8	79.63

Total problems

13537

100

### Average prescribed daily dose (PDD) for the more common problem managed with statins (ATC code: C10AA) Apr 01-Mar 02

For each problem managed with the selected medication this table provides the mean PDD, the Median PDD, the minimum PDD and maximum PDD recorded by the GPs. The mean, median etc for all prescriptions of the selected medication is provided in the last row of the table. Note that the median is often a more reliable measure of central tendency than the mean, which is influenced by outliers.

**Note** “Average prescribed daily dose” includes prescribed, supplied and advised medications ( where applicable).

**Table 5: Average prescribed daily dose – Antibiotics ( top 20 problems)**

Problem label	n	Mean	Median		Minimum	Measure	Maximum	Measure	
		PDD	Measure	PDD					
Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis	1671	879.0	mg	750	mg	50.0	mg	3500	mg
Upper respiratory infection, acute	1348	984.3	mg	1000	mg	50.0	mg	4000	mg
UTI*	1001	1023.0	mg	800	mg	5.0	mg	4000	mg
Sinusitis acute/chronic	967	968.9	mg	750	mg	50.0	mg	2000	mg
Tonsillitis*	562	1396.0	mg	1500	mg	50.0	mg	4000	mg
Acute otitis media/myringitis	347	1100.0	mg	1000	mg	15.0	mg	2000	mg
Skin infection, post traumatic	282	1472.0	mg	1500	mg	100.0	mg	4000	mg
Boil/carbuncle	261	1574.0	mg	1600	mg	7.5	mg	4800	mg
Respiratory infection, other	229	822.6	mg	750	mg	50.0	mg	2000	mg
Teeth/gum disease	225	1425.0	mg	1500	mg	100.0	mg	3000	mg
Skin infection, other	174	1574.0	mg	1675	mg	100.0	mg	4000	mg
Infected finger/toe	162	1561.0	mg	1500	mg	1.5	mg	3000	mg
Acne	157	200.4	mg	100	mg	25.0	mg	2000	mg
Asthma	155	938.6	mg	750	mg	100.0	mg	3000	mg
Pneumonia	131	1099.0	mg	875	mg	100.0	mg	4800	mg
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	95	828.4	mg	500	mg	50.0	mg	4000	mg
Infectious disease, other/NOS	87	1452.0	mg	1500	mg	50.0	mg	8000	mg
Laryngitis/tracheitis, acute	84	868.5	mg	750	mg	100.0	mg	3500	mg
Otitis externa	82	1486.0	mg	1500	mg	100.0	mg	4000	mg

## Average number of repeats for statins for the more common problems managed with statins (ATC code: C10AA) Apr 01-Mar 02

For each problem managed with the selected medication this Table provides the mean number of repeats, the median number of repeats, the minimum and maximum number of repeats. Again note that the median is often a more reliable measure of central tendency than the average which is influenced by outliers ( Table 6).

**Table 6: Average number of repeats – Antibiotics ( most common problems)**

Problem label	n	Mean repeats	Median repeats	Minimum	Maximum
Acute bronchitis/bronchiolitis	1611	0.5	1.0	0	5
Upper respiratory infection, acute	1325	0.4	0.0	0	2
Sinusitis acute/chronic	913	0.6	1.0	0	5
UTI*	871	0.4	0.0	0	7
Acute otitis media/myringitis	751	0.4	0.0	0	1
Tonsillitis*	712	0.3	0.0	0	5
Skin infection, post traumatic	262	0.4	0.0	0	2
Boil/carbuncle	238	0.4	0.0	0	5
Respiratory infection, other	224	0.4	0.0	0	2
Teeth/gum disease	201	0.4	0.0	0	3
Skin infection, other	163	0.4	0.0	0	5
Acne	159	3.7	5.0	0	5
Infected finger/toe	155	0.4	0.0	0	2
Asthma	145	0.6	1.0	0	5
Pneumonia	127	0.6	1.0	0	4
Impetigo	101	0.4	0.0	0	5
Infectious disease, other/NOS	86	0.6	0.5	0	5
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	82	1.1	1.0	0	5
Otitis externa	74	0.3	0.0	0	1
Laryngitis/tracheitis, acute	70	0.4	0.0	0	1
Chronic ulcer skin (incl varicose ulcer)	69	0.5	0.0	0	1
Cough	66	0.4	0.0	0	1
Ingrowing nail	59	0.3	0.0	0	1
Diverticular disease	57	0.6	0.0	0	5
Complication of treatment	46	0.3	0.0	0	1
Throat symptom/complaint	46	0.3	0.0	0	1
Dermatitis, contact/allergic	45	0.9	0.0	0	5
Sebaceous cyst	42	0.4	0.0	0	1
Breast symptom/complaint, other (female)	41	0.4	0.0	0	1
Mouth/tongue/lip disease	38	0.7	1.0	0	5
Prescription all*	38	0.4	0.0	0	5
Immunisation all*	35	0.3	0.0	0	2
Skin disease, other	35	3.6	5.0	0	5
Influenza	32	0.5	0.0	0	1
Respiratory disease, other	32	1.1	1.0	0	5
Laceration/cut	30	0.4	0.0	0	1
Chronic otitis media	28	0.3	0.0	0	1
Musculoskeletal infection	28	1.3	1.0	0	5
Viral disease, other/NOS	26	0.4	0.0	0	1
Orchitis/epididymitis	26	0.3	0.0	0	0

## Prescribed daily dose (PDD) by generic– statins (ATC code: C10AA) Apr 01-Mar 02

Table 7 provides the mean PDD, the Median PDD, the minimum PDD and maximum PDD by generic level. The last column is the number of medications used for the problem managed for the first time. The mean, median etc for all prescriptions of the selected medication is provided in the last row of the table. Note that the median is often a more reliable measure of central tendency than the mean, which is influenced by outliers.

**Note** “Prescribed daily dose” includes prescribed medications only.

**Table 7: Prescribed daily dose - Antibiotics**

Drug	n	Mean PDD	mg	Median PDD	mg	Min	mg	Max	mg	New
Penicillins/Cephalosporins	17	1559	mg	1500	mg	1.5	mg	4000	mg	12
Penicillin V (phenoxymethyl benz)	263	1699	mg	2000	mg	250	mg	4000	mg	191
Procaine penicillin	3	1500	mg	1500	mg	1500	mg	1500	mg	0
Cephalothin	1	4000	mg	4000	mg	4000	mg	4000	mg	1
Cephalexin	1450	1571	mg	1500	mg	186	mg	4000	mg	1056
Flucloxacillin	206	2036	mg	2000	mg	250	mg	8000	mg	125
Benzylpenicillin	4	4800	mg	4800	mg	4800	mg	4800	mg	1
Ceftriaxone	2	1000	mg	1000	mg	1000	mg	1000	mg	2
Dicloxacillin	306	1730	mg	2000	mg	500	mg	2000	mg	217
Cefuroxime axetil	63	532.5	mg	500	mg	300	mg	1000	mg	45
Cefaclor monohydrate	546	746.2	mg	750	mg	200	mg	2250	mg	399
Penicillin phenoxymethyl potassium	170	1682	mg	2000	mg	375	mg	4000	mg	121
Ampicillin	21	1071	mg	1000	mg	1000	mg	2000	mg	21
Amoxicillin	1756	1292	mg	1500	mg	125	mg	3000	mg	1287
Amoxicillin/potass.clavulanate	1080	1620	mg	1750	mg	15	mg	3500	mg	804
Doxycycline	706	110.6	mg	100	mg	25	mg	600	mg	491
Tetracycline	29	948.3	mg	1000	mg	250	mg	3000	mg	13
Minocycline	84	104.2	mg	100	mg	50	mg	200	mg	39
Tetracycline phosphate	43	907	mg	1000	mg	250	mg	2000	mg	20
Demeclocycline	1	600	mg	600	mg	600	mg	600	mg	0
Cotrimoxazole (Trimethoprim+Sulfamethoxazole)	181	1522	mg	1600	mg	100	mg	1600	mg	115
Erythromycin	366	1221	mg	1200	mg	160	mg	2400	mg	265
Fusidic acid/sodium fusidate	8	750	mg	750	mg	500	mg	1000	mg	2
Clindamycin	7	514.3	mg	600	mg	300	mg	600	mg	4
Norfloxacin	93	791.4	mg	800	mg	400	mg	1600	mg	65
Trimethoprim	382	297.7	mg	300	mg	5	mg	700	mg	300
Vancomycin	1	1000	mg	1000	mg	1000	mg	1000	mg	1
Chloramphenicol - systemic	1	2000	mg	2000	mg	2000	mg	2000	mg	1
Ciprofloxacin	67	1097	mg	1000	mg	500	mg	2000	mg	33
Rifampicin	7	351.4	mg	300	mg	60	mg	600	mg	4
Dapsone	1	100	mg	100	mg	100	mg	100	mg	0
Roxithromycin	1297	294.4	mg	300	mg	50	mg	600	mg	966
Rifabutin	1	300	mg	300	mg	300	mg	300	mg	0
Azithromycin	4	812.5	mg	1000	mg	250	mg	1000	mg	2
Clarithromycin	223	505.4	mg	500	mg	250	mg	1000	mg	170
Neomycin sulfate oral	2	750	mg	750	mg	500	mg	1000	mg	0
Total	9392	1081	mg	1000	mg	1.5	mg	8000	mg	6773