

SDR 123/2008

19 August 2008

Prescriptions by General Medical Practitioners in Wales, 2007-08

This Release gives information on prescription items prescribed (and dispensed) or dispensed by General Medical Practitioners in Wales.

A breakdown of the data to Local Health Board level can be found on StatsWales at:
<http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/ReportFolders/reportfolders.aspx>

Key facts:

Wales in 2007-08:-

- The number of prescription items dispensed increased from 59.1 million in 2006-07 to 62.0 million (up by 5 per cent). This was equivalent to 20.0 per head of population registered with a GP in Wales.
- The net ingredient cost of all prescriptions dispensed increased by 1 per cent over 2006-07, to £584 million. This was equivalent to £188.90 head.
- The average net ingredient cost per prescription item was £9.42; 38 pence lower than in 2006-07.

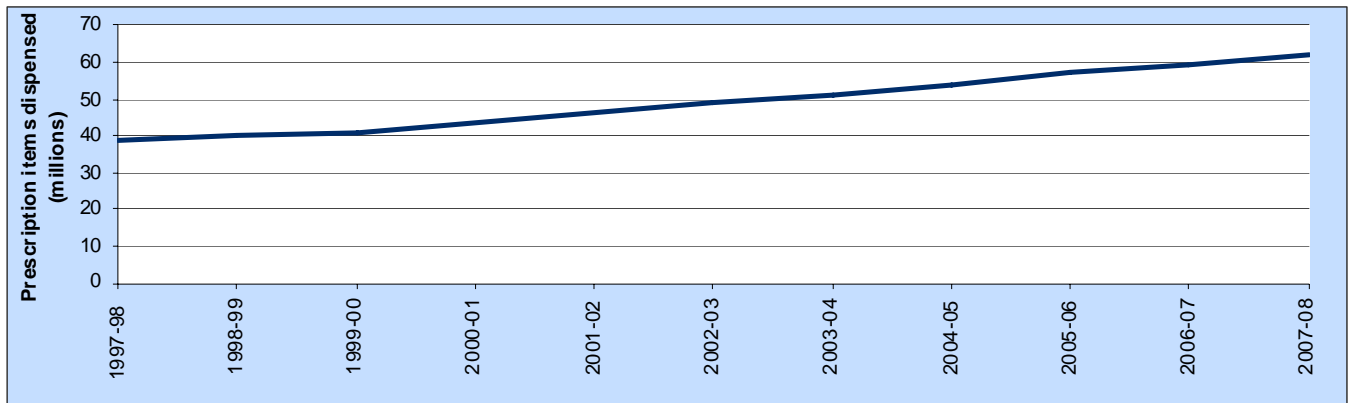
Compared to the rest of the UK in 2007:

- Wales dispensed the highest number of prescription items per head of population - 20.9 compared to 17.7 in Northern Ireland, 16.0 in Scotland and 15.7 in England.
- Wales had the second highest net ingredient cost per head of population - £199.04 compared to £223.64 in Northern Ireland, £190.24 in Scotland and £164.94 in England.
- Wales had the lowest net ingredient cost per prescription item - £9.51 compared to £10.51 in England, £11.89 in Scotland and £12.65 in Northern Ireland.

Contact: Tel: 029 2082 5080 E-mail: stats.healthinfo@wales.gsi.gov.uk **Next Update:** August 2009 (provisional)



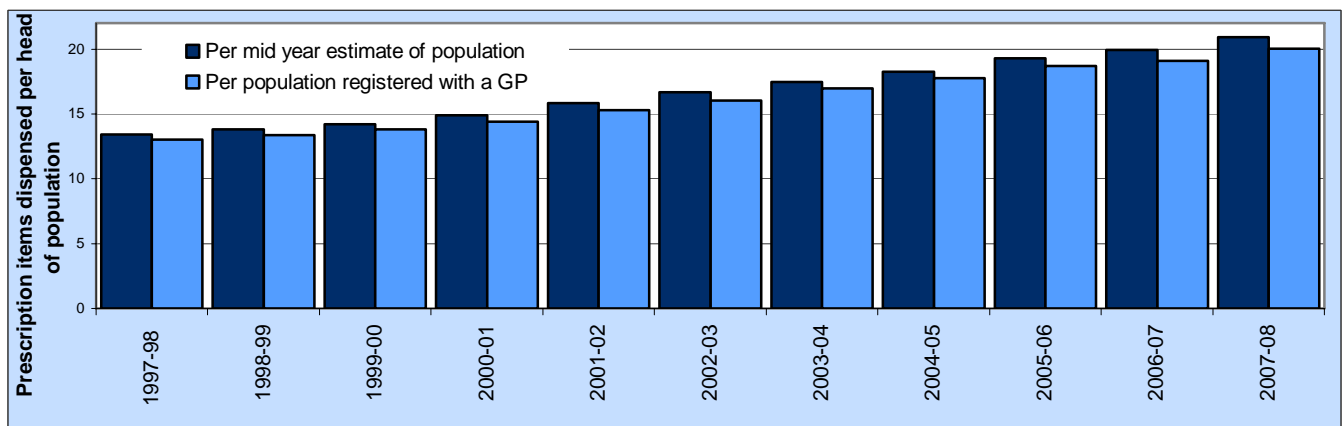
Chart 1 Prescription items dispensed (millions) (a)



(a) Items prescribed (and dispensed) or dispensed by GPs in Wales.

In the ten years between 1997-98 and 2007-08 the number of prescription items dispensed in Wales increased by 59% from 38.9 to 62.0 million.

Chart 2 Prescription items dispensed per head of population (a)

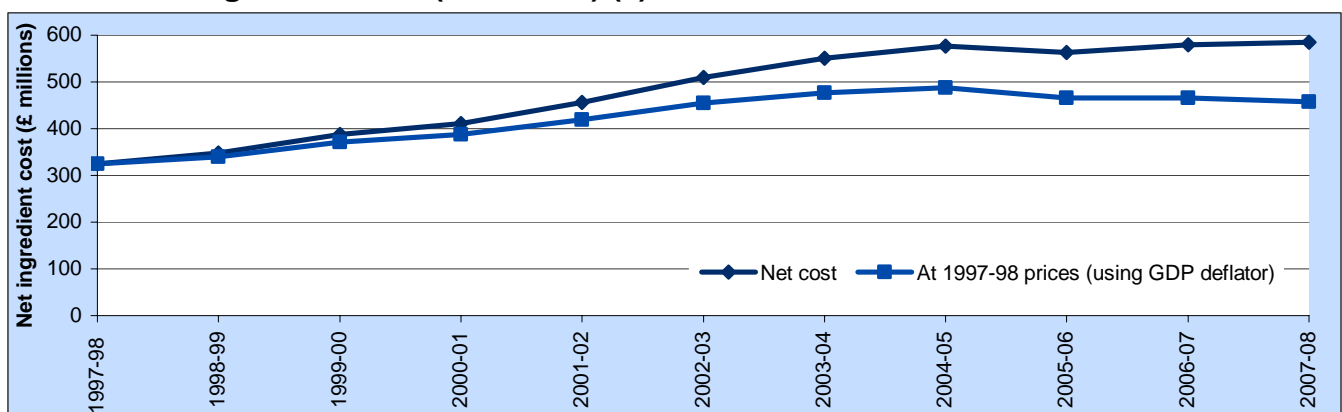


(a) 2006 mid year estimate has been used to calculate data for 2007-08. Data for 2006-07 has been updated using 2006 mid year estimate. Registered population is at 30 September.

Between 1997-98 and 2007-08 the number of prescription items dispensed per head of population (mid year estimate) rose 56 per cent from 13.4 to 20.9.

The number of items per registered head of population rose by 54 per cent from 13.0 to 20.0.

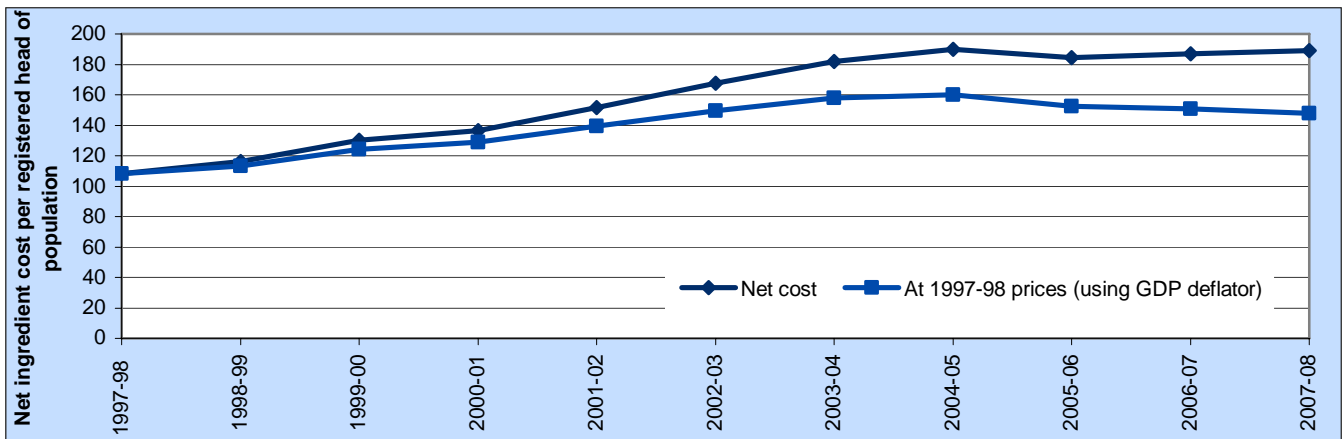
Chart 3 Net ingredient cost (£ millions) (a)



(a) Refers to the cost (which the dispenser is reimbursed) of the drug before discounts and does not include any dispensing costs or fees. It does not include any adjustment for income obtained where a prescription charge is paid at the time the prescription is dispensed or where the patient has purchased a pre-payment certificate. See note on front page concerning the reduction in net ingredient cost.

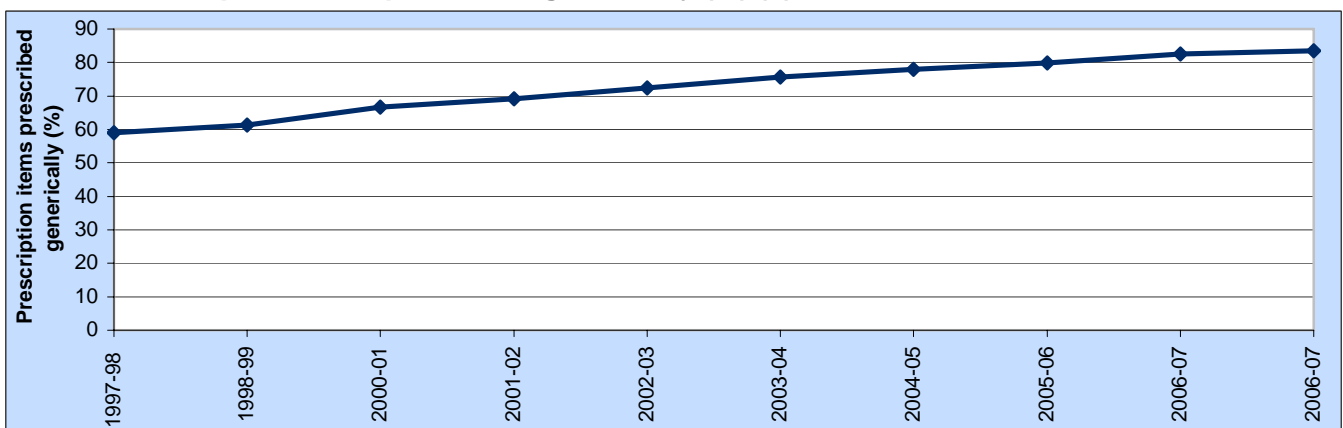
In the ten years between 1997-98 and 2007-08 the net ingredient cost (NIC) of prescription items dispensed in Wales increased by 80% to £584 million in actual terms. In real terms (at 1997-98 prices) the increase was 41%.

Chart 4 Net ingredient cost per registered head of population (a)



In actual terms the NIC in 2007-08 was equivalent to £188.90 per registered head of population, an increase from £108.36 in 1997-98 (74%). In real terms (at 1997-98 prices) the increase was 36% to £147.67.

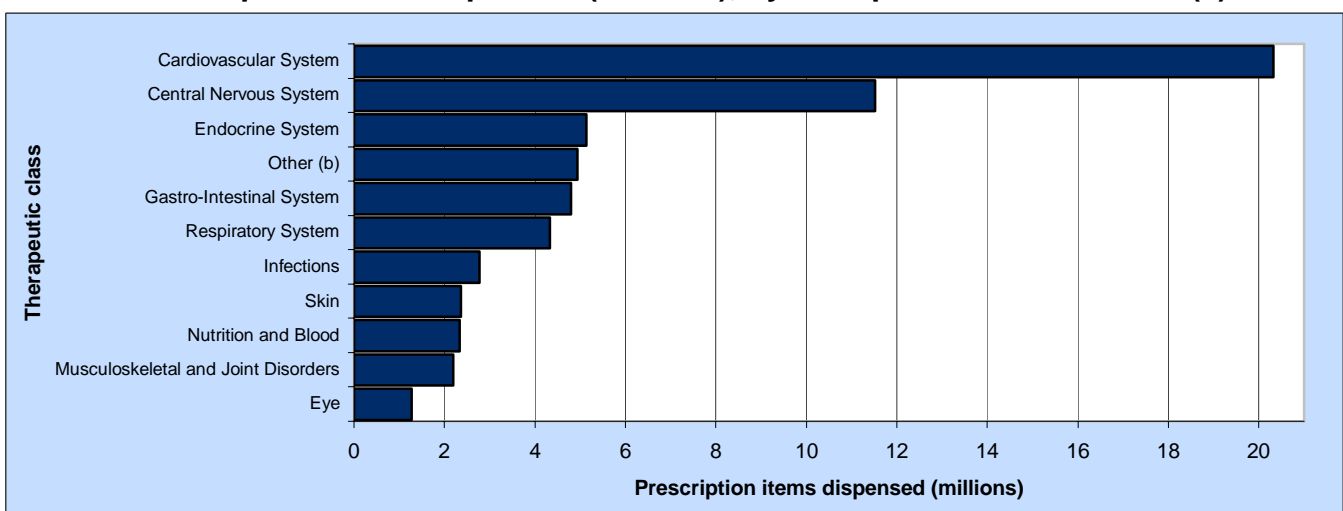
Chart 5 Prescription items prescribed generically (%) (a)



(a) See page 8 for definition of 'prescribed generically'.

Between 1997-98 and 2007-08 the percentage of prescription items dispensed generically rose from 59 to 84.

Chart 6 Prescription items dispensed (millions), by therapeutic class 2007-08 (a)

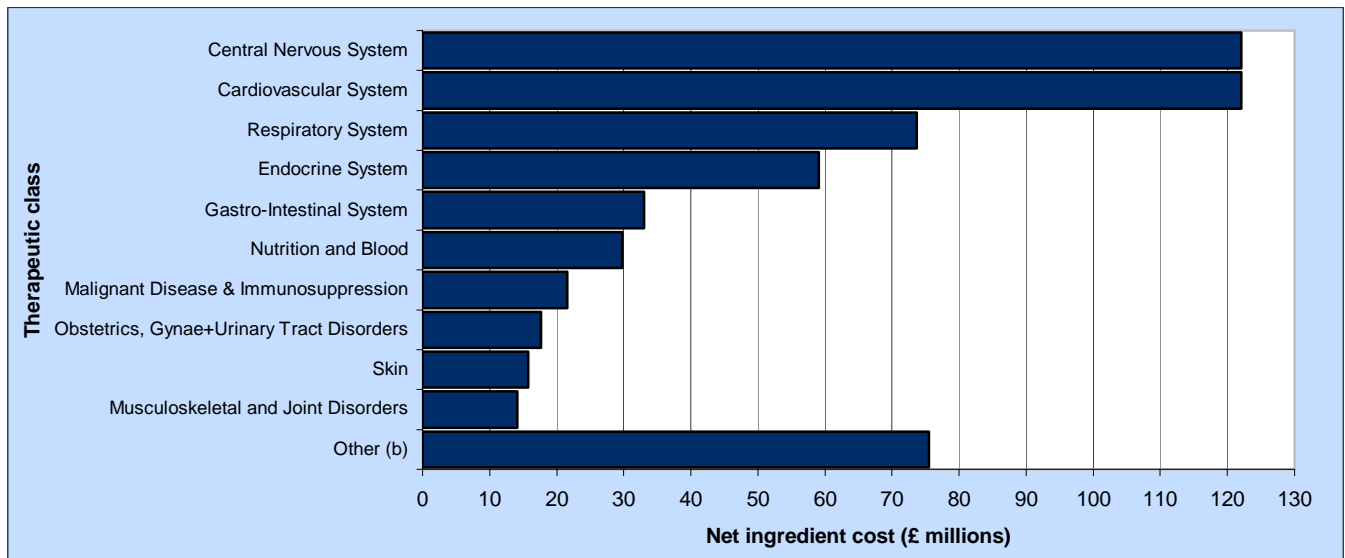


(a) See note on page 9.

(b) Obstetrics, gynaecology & urinary tract disorders, malignant disease & immunosuppression, ear, nose & oropharynx, immunological products & vaccines, anaesthesia, other drugs & preparations, dressings, appliances, incontinence appliances and stoma appliances.

Almost a third (33% or 20.3 million) of prescription items dispensed in Wales are for treatment of the cardiovascular system; this equates to 6.6 items per registered head of population. A further 19% (11.5 million) are dispensed for the treatment of the central nervous system, equal to 3.7 items per head.

Chart 7 Net ingredient cost (£ millions), by therapeutic class 2007-08 (a)



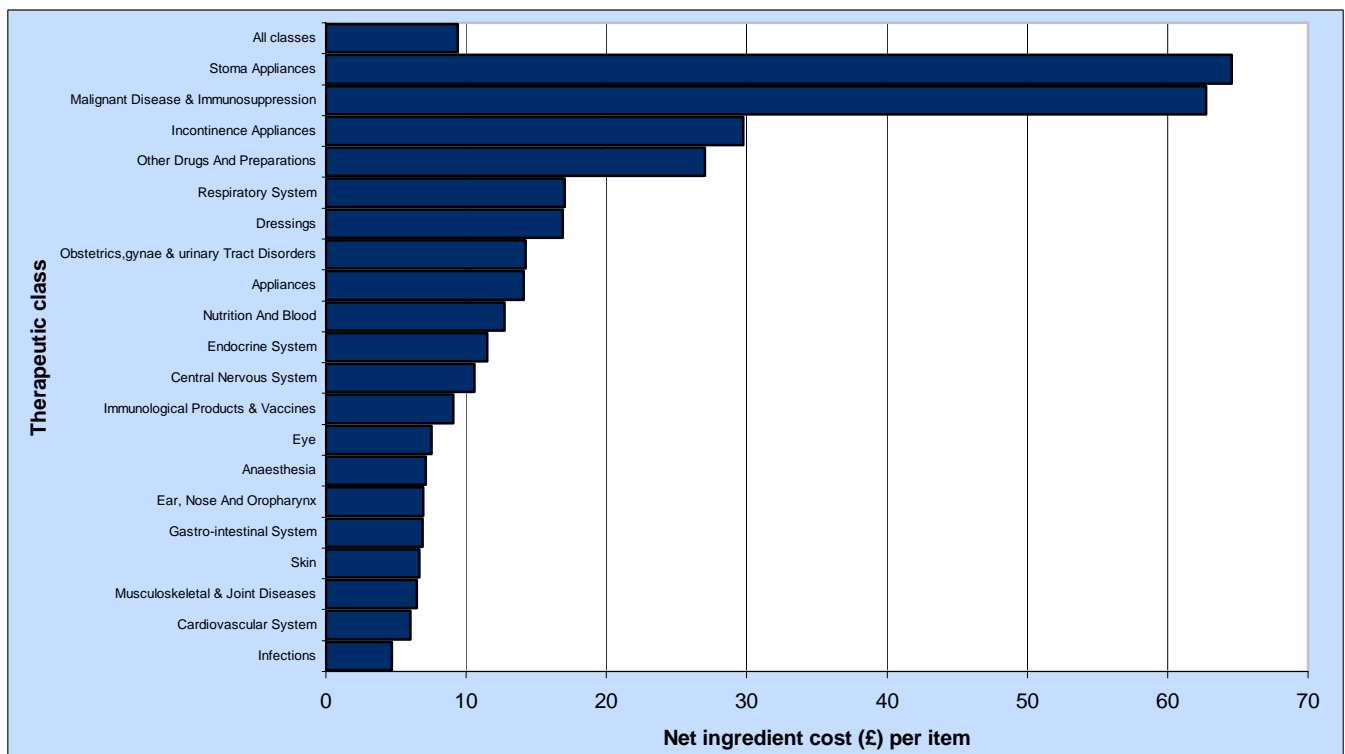
(a) See note on page 9.

(b) Infections, eye, ear, nose & oropharynx, immunological products & vaccines, anaesthesia, other drugs & preparations, dressings, appliances, incontinence appliances and stoma appliances.

The most commonly prescribed 2 groups are also the top two in terms of cost.

The top two groups were almost identical with each group accounting for 21% of the net ingredient cost. The central nervous system cost £122.1 million, equating to £39.46 per registered head of population and the cardiovascular system cost £122.0 million, equating to £39.45 per head.

Chart 8 Net ingredient cost (£) per item, by therapeutic class 2007-08 (a)



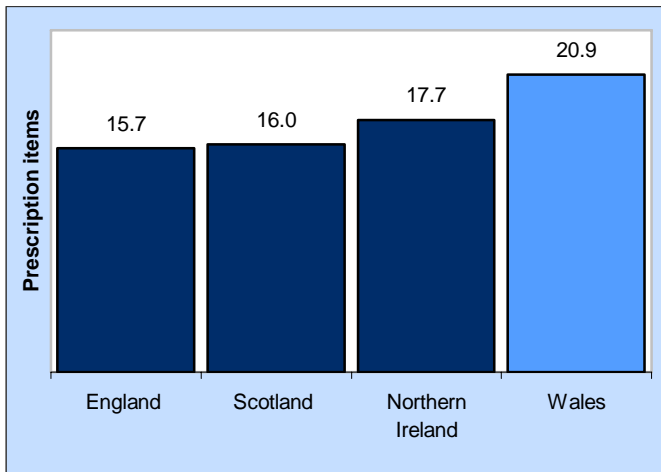
(a) See note on page 9.

The therapeutic class with the highest net ingredient cost per item was 'stoma appliances' (£64.55), 'malignant disease & immunosuppression' was the next highest (£62.73), followed by 'incontinence appliances' (£29.76). The lowest were 'infections' (£4.70) and 'cardiovascular system' (£6.01).

For all therapeutic classes together the net ingredient cost per item was £9.42, 38 pence lower than the previous year, the third year in which a decrease has been seen.

UK Comparisons - 2007 (a)

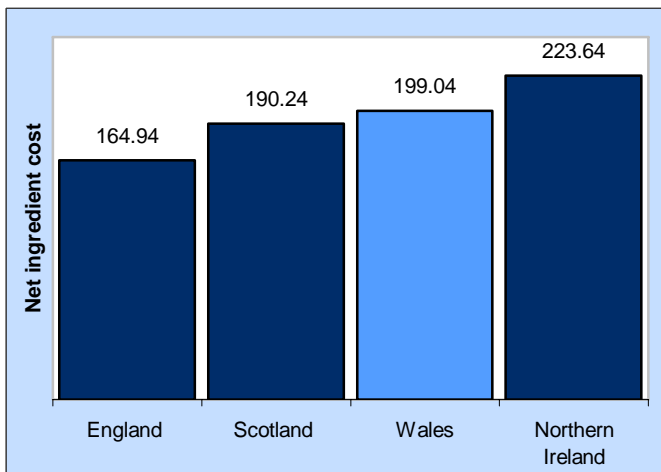
Chart 9 Prescription items dispensed per head of population



More prescriptions items per head ⁽¹⁾ were dispensed in Wales than any other UK country: 5.2 more than England, 4.9 more than Scotland and 3.2 more than Northern Ireland.

(1) Based on 2006 mid year estimate of population.

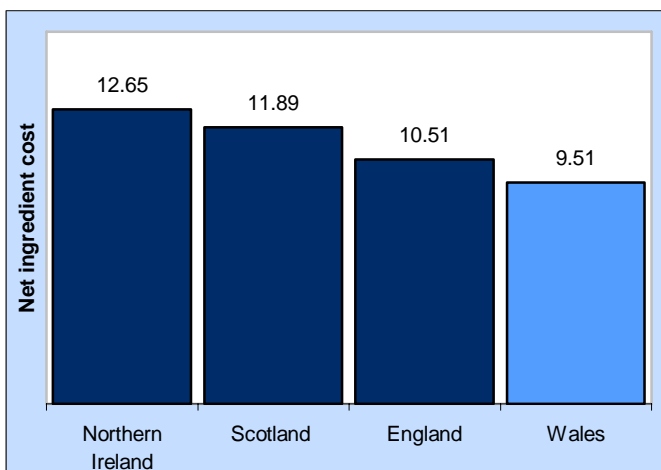
Chart 10 Net ingredient cost per head of population (£)



The net ingredient cost (NIC) per head ⁽¹⁾ of population was higher in Wales than any other UK country except Northern Ireland: £34.10 more than England, £8.80 more than Scotland but £24.60 less than Northern Ireland.

(1) Based on 2006 mid year estimate of population.

Chart 11 Net ingredient cost per prescription item (£)

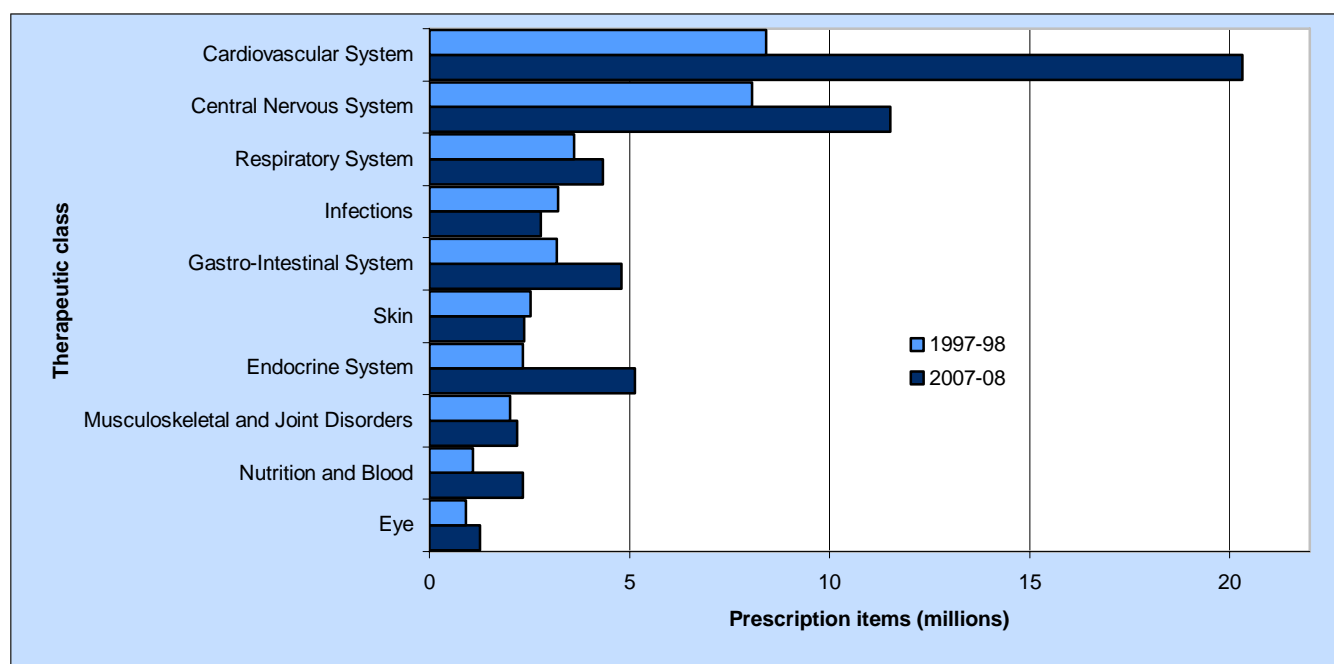


Wales has the lowest NIC per prescription item. It is £1.00 lower than England, £2.38 lower than Scotland and £3.14 lower than Northern Ireland.

(a) To enable comparisons to be made these statistics cover all prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists (including supermarket pharmacies), appliance contractors and dispensing doctors, including items personally administered in all four countries. The vast majority are written by General Medical Practitioners; however prescriptions written by nurses, dentists and hospital doctors are also included provided they were dispensed in the community. The 2006 mid year estimate has been used in calculation.

Therapeutic Class - 10 year trend

Chart 12: Prescription items (millions). Top ten therapeutic classes in 2007-08 compared with 1997-98



In both 1997-98 and 2007-08 the largest therapeutic class, in terms of items dispensed, was the 'cardiovascular system' (22 and 33 per cent of items dispensed respectively) followed by the 'central nervous system' (21 and 19 per cent). For both classes this was equal to 2.8 and 2.7 items per registered head of population in 1997-98 respectively. By 2007-08 this had risen to 6.6 and 3.75 items per head respectively.

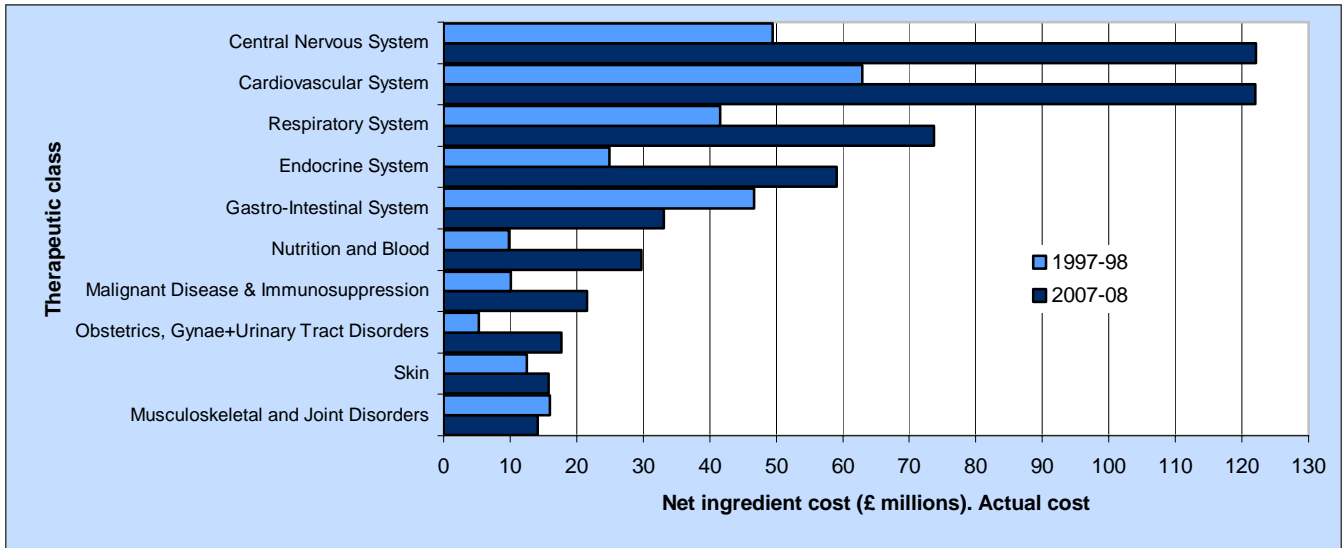
In 2007-08 'endocrine system' was the third largest group and 'gastro-intestinal system' the fourth. In 1997-98 these two groups ranked 7th and 5th respectively.

All therapeutic groups in the top ten showed an increase over the period except 'infections', which decreased by 14 per cent from 3.2 to 2.8 million items (1.1 to 0.9 items per head) and 'skin' which decreased by 6 per cent from 2.5 to 2.4 million items (0.8 items per head in both years).

The largest percentage increase was for prescription items for the 'cardiovascular system' - by 141 per cent from 8.4 to 20.3 million items (2.8 to 6.6 items per head).

See tables 1 and 2 for more detail on numbers of prescription items dispensed.

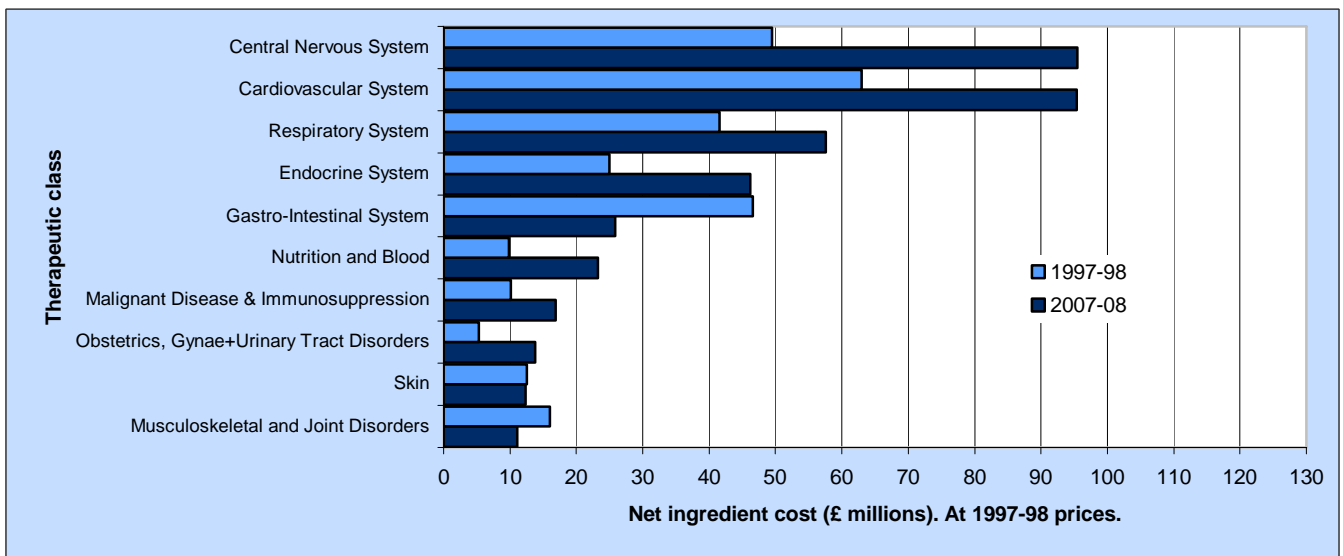
Chart 13 Net ingredient cost (£ millions). Top ten therapeutic classes in 2007-08 compared with 1997-98. Actual cost



In all but the last year the largest therapeutic class in terms of actual cost was 'cardiovascular system' and 'central nervous system' the second largest. In 2007-08 these two groups were reversed when both the 'central nervous' and 'cardiovascular system' accounted for 21 per cent of total cost. In 1997-98 'cardiovascular system' had accounted for 19 per cent. In terms of actual cost per registered head of population 'cardiovascular system' increased from £21.06 to £39.45 and 'central nervous system' from £16.55 to £39.46.

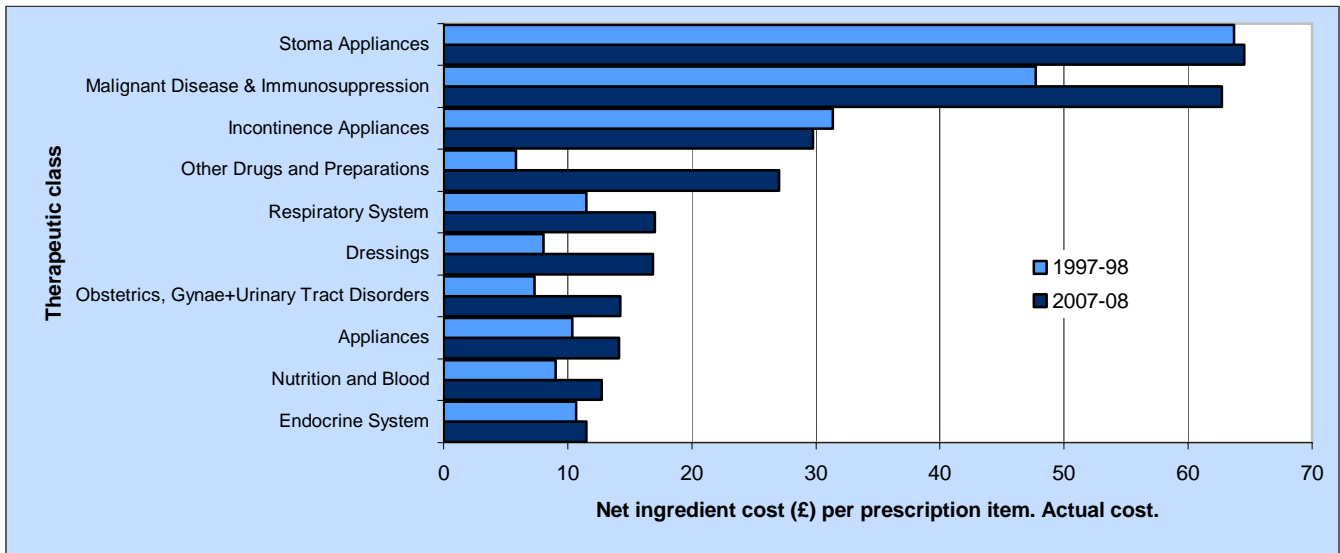
All therapeutic groups in the top ten showed an increase over the period except 'gastro-intestinal system', which decreased by 29 per cent from £46.62 million to £33.06 million (£15.59 to £10.69 per head) and 'muculoskeletal and joint disorders' which decreased by 11 per cent from £15.99 million to £14.17 million (£5.35 to £4.58 per head). The largest percentage increase was in 'Obstetrics, Gynaecology & Urinary Tract disorders' - by 232 per cent from £5.33 million to £17.70 million. The second largest was in 'Nutrition and Blood' - by 203 per cent from £9.82 million to £29.76 million.

Charts 14 Net ingredient cost (£ millions). Top ten therapeutic classes in 2007-08 compared with 1997-98. At 1997-98 prices



When looked at in terms of 1997-98 based prices the costs of 'gastro-intestinal system' decreased by 45 per cent (£15.59 to £8.35 per head), 'musculoskeletal and joint disorders' decreased by 31 per cent (£5.35 to £3.58 per head) and 'skin' decreased by 2 per cent (£4.20 to £3.98 per head).

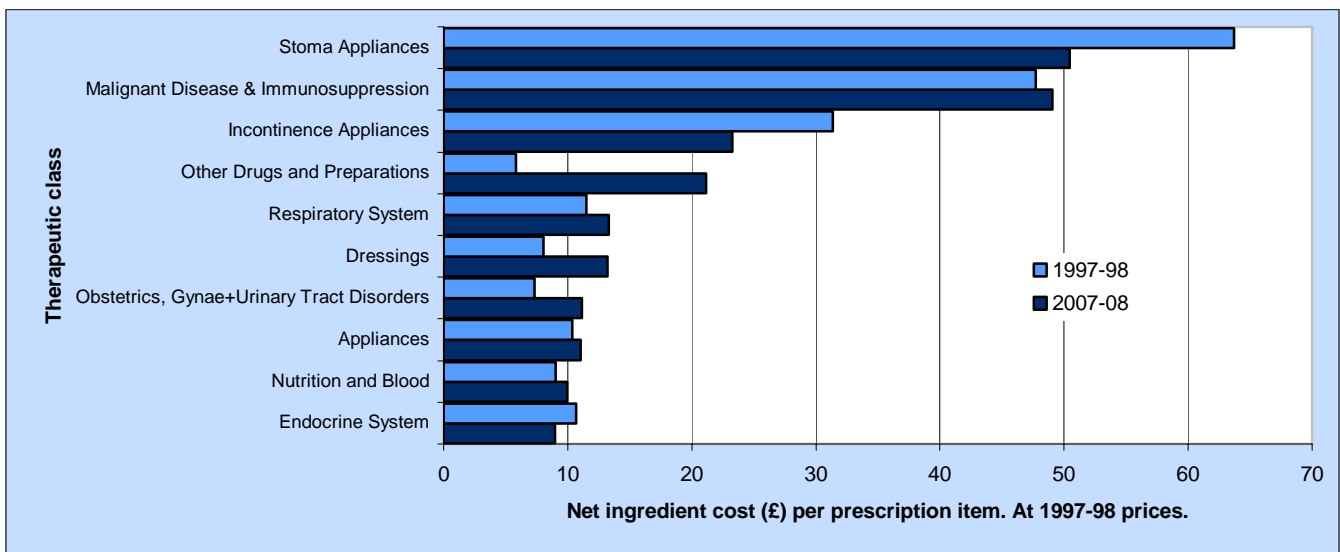
Chart 15 Net ingredient cost (£) per prescription item. Top ten therapeutic classes in 2007-08. Actual cost



In both 1997-98 and 2007-08 the most expensive therapeutic class, in terms of actual cost per item, was 'stoma appliances'. The second largest was 'malignant disease and immunosuppression'.

All but one therapeutic group in the top ten showed an increase over the period. Within the top ten the largest increase was in 'other drugs and preparations' - by 363 per cent from £5.84 to £27.02, the second largest was in 'dressings' - by 110 per cent from £8.04 to £16.87. The decrease was in 'incontinence appliances' - by 5 per cent from £31.36 to £29.76.

Chart 16 Net ingredient cost (£) per prescription item. Top ten therapeutic classes in 2007-08. At 1997-98 prices



When looked at in terms of 1997-98 based prices the costs of 'incontinence appliances', 'stoma appliances' and 'endocrine system' all decreased - by 26, 21 and 16 per cent respectively. The largest percentage increase was in 'other drugs and preparations' - 262 per cent.

Key Quality information

Source

The data is obtained from the Prescribing Services Unit and are based on information obtained from prescriptions sent to the Prescribing Services Unit, Health Solutions Wales for payment.

Coverage

Prescription items prescribed (and dispensed) or dispensed by General Medical Practitioners in Wales. It also covers prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered. Detailed data on all items dispensed in the community in Wales (including items not prescribed by GPs) are published in a separate Statistical Release.

Notes

Reduction in Net Ingredient Cost 2004-05 to 2005-06

The decrease in the net ingredient cost between 2004-05 and 2005-06 can be attributed to two things: Category M

The April 2005 Drug Tariff introduced a new Category M of generic medicines under Part VIII, which applies to some medicines previously in Category A. The basic prices of Category M medicines reflect the average manufacturers' market prices after discount rather than the Category A system of basket prices before discount.

PPRS (PHARMACEUTICAL PRICE REGULATION SCHEME 2005)

Companies with sales of branded prescription medicines to the NHS above £1 million in 2004 were required to reduce prices by 7% from 1 January 2005. Thereafter, there was no price increase before 31st December 2005. The price cut applied to the NHS list price of all products covered by the scheme on the market at 31st December 2004. For companies with NHS home sales of £10 million or less in that year, the first £1 million of sales will be exempt from the price cut. Variable reductions will be allowed provided that the company can show that the aggregate effect is equivalent to an overall reduction of 7%. Scheme members may opt to deliver up to 2% of the price cut by making a payment to the DH. In common with all PPRS receipts, this payment is apportioned between England, Wales Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Net Ingredient Cost

Refers to the cost (which the dispenser is reimbursed) of the drug before discounts and does not include any dispensing costs or fees. It does not include any adjustment for income obtained where a prescription charge is paid at the time the prescription is dispensed or where the patient has purchased a pre-payment certificate.

Generic Prescribing

A prescription item prescribed generically refers to a prescription which has been written using the British Approved Name (BAN), International Non-proprietary Name (INN) or the scientific name of the active ingredient rather than the proprietary name.

Registered population

Number of people registered with a GP in Wales. Up to 1999 this was at 1 October, thereafter at 30 September.

Therapeutic Class

Based on the therapeutic grouping used in the British National Formulary (BNF).

The Prescription Pricing Authority (PPA) has created pseudo BNF chapters, which are not published, for items not included in BNF chapters 1 to 15. The majority of such items are dressings and appliances, which the PPA has classified into four pseudo BNF chapters (20 to 23). However some gel and colloid

dressings that are classified as drugs are included in a pseudo section within BNF 13 (13.13). The PPA has produced a booklet on BNF classifications and the pseudo classifications used.

A list of the Therapeutic classes (BNF chapters) and their sub groups are shown in the following table.

Therapeutic Class

Gastro-intestinal System

- Antacids
- Antispasmodic and other drugs altering gut motility
- Ulcer healing drugs
- Antidiarrhoeal drugs
- Treatment of chronic diarrhoeas
- Laxatives
- Preparations for haemorrhoids
- Stoma care
- Drugs affecting intestinal secretions

Cardiovascular System

- Positive inotropic drugs
- Diuretics
- Anti-arrhythmic drugs
- Beta-adrenoceptor blocking drugs
- Antihypertensive therapy
- Nitrates and other vasodilators, and calcium channel blockers
- Sympathomimetics
- Anticoagulants and protamine
- Antiplatelet drugs
- Antifibrinolytic drugs and haemostatics
- Lipid-lowering drugs
- Local sclerosants

Respiratory System

- Bronchodilators
- Corticosteroids
- Cromoglycate and related therapy
- Allergic disorders
- Oxygen
- Mucolytics
- Aromatic inhalations
- Cough preparations
- Systemic nasal decongestants

Central Nervous System

- Hypnotics and anxiolytics
- drugs used in psychoses and related disorders
- Antidepressant drugs
- Central nervous system stimulants
- Appetite suppressants
- Drugs used in nausea and vertigo
- Analgesics
- Antiepiletics
- Drugs used in parkinsonism and related disorders
- Drugs used in substance dependence
- Drugs used in Alzheimer's disease

Infections

- Antibacterial drugs
- Antifungal drugs
- Antiviral drugs
- Antiprotozoal drugs
- Anthelmintics

Endocrine System

- Drugs used in diabetes
- Thyroid and antithyroid drugs
- Corticosteroids
- Sex hormones
- Hypothalamic and pituitary hormones and antioestrogens
- Other endocrine drugs

Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Urinary Tract Disorders

- Drugs used in obstetrics
- Treatment of vaginal and vulval conditions
- Contraceptives
- Drugs used for genito-urinary disorders

Malignant Disease and Immunosuppression

- Cytotoxic drugs
- Drugs affecting the immune response
- Sex hormones and hormone antagonists in malignant disease

Nutrition and Blood

- Anaemias and other blood disorders
- Fluids and electrolytes
- Oral nutrition
- Minerals
- Vitamins
- Bitters and tonics
- Metabolic disorders
- Foods
- Compound vitamin / mineral formulations
- Health supplements
- Other health supplements

Musculoskeletal and Joint Disorders

- Drugs used in rheumatic diseases and gout
- Drugs used in neuromuscular disorders
- Drugs used for relief of soft tissue inflammation

Eye

- Anti-infective eye preparations
- Corticosteroids and other anti-inflammatory preparations
- Mydriatics and cycloplegics
- Treatment of glaucoma
- Local anaesthetics
- Miscellaneous ophthalmic preparations
- Contact lenses

Ear, Nose and Oropharynx

- Drugs acting on the ear
- Drugs acting on the nose
- Drugs acting on the oropharynx

Skin

- Vehicles and emulsifying agents
- Emollient and barrier preparations
- Local anaesthetics and antipruritics
- Topical corticosteroids
- Preparations for eczema and psoriasis
- Preparations for acne
- Preparations for warts and calluses
- Sunscreens and camouflagers
- Shampoos and some other scalp preparations
- Anti-infective skin preparations
- Disinfectants and cleansers
- Antiperspirants
- Wound management products
- Topical circulatory preparations
- Miscellaneous topical preparations

Immunological Products and Vaccines

- Vaccines and antisera
- Immunoglobulins

Anaesthesia

- General anaesthesia
- Local anaesthesia

Preparations used in Diagnosis

- X-ray contrast media

Other Drugs and Preparations

Dressings

Appliances

Incontinence Supplies

Stoma Appliances

Table 1: Items prescribed (and dispensed) by General Medical Practitioners in Wales (a)

	Thousands										
Therapeutic Class	1997-98	1998-99	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	% Change
Cardiovascular System	8,415	9,074	10,947	12,197	13,719	15,291	16,969	18,460	19,542	20,321	141.5
Central Nervous System	8,065	8,443	9,114	9,577	9,955	10,142	10,354	10,632	10,929	11,522	42.9
Endocrine System	2,341	2,538	2,983	3,319	3,624	3,903	4,191	4,556	4,870	5,140	119.5
Gastro-Intestinal System	3,185	3,291	3,480	3,643	3,811	3,947	4,126	4,352	4,534	4,802	50.8
Respiratory System	3,619	3,669	3,718	3,847	3,898	3,908	3,963	4,089	4,100	4,334	19.8
Infections	3,219	2,896	2,655	2,617	2,588	2,626	2,617	2,671	2,697	2,779	-13.7
Skin	2,523	2,467	2,393	2,415	2,407	2,355	2,322	2,324	2,240	2,364	-6.3
Nutrition and Blood	1,091	1,121	1,201	1,311	1,458	1,583	1,748	1,942	2,137	2,339	114.4
Musculoskeletal and Joint Disorders	2,022	2,048	2,102	2,188	2,278	2,309	2,289	2,185	2,127	2,194	8.5
Eye	916	930	967	1,006	1,036	1,084	1,112	1,162	1,198	1,271	38.8
Obstetrics, Gynae+Urinary Tract Disorders	730	761	861	912	962	1,018	1,060	1,124	1,175	1,244	70.4
Dressings	780	777	774	789	778	785	766	765	751	776	-0.5
Immunological Products and Vaccines	626	599	685	687	661	690	724	919	764	754	20.4
Ear, Nose and Oropharynx	612	612	600	618	624	616	609	644	656	718	17.3
Appliances	275	271	302	331	359	406	443	523	610	654	138.1
Malignant Disease & Immunosuppression	213	226	250	263	278	290	298	312	325	343	61.4
Stoma Appliances	97	97	112	121	132	142	155	169	187	199	105.0
Other Drugs and Preparations	64	61	58	61	65	53	59	75	95	112	74.8
Incontinence Appliances	57	58	59	62	66	68	70	75	81	84	46.7
Anaesthesia	50	52	50	51	53	53	54	58	59	62	23.7
Preparations used in Diagnosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100.0
Total	38,899	39,990	43,312	46,018	48,752	51,269	53,928	57,035	59,079	62,011	59.4

(a) In order of highest to lowest 2007-08.

Data for 1999-2000 is not available in this detail.

Table 2: Items prescribed (and dispensed) by General Medical Practitioners in Wales (a)

Therapeutic Class	Per registered head of population										
	1997-98	1998-99	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	% Change
Cardiovascular System	2.8	3.0	3.6	4.1	4.5	5.1	5.6	6.0	6.3	6.6	133.4
Central Nervous System	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.7	38.1
Endocrine System	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	112.2
Gastro-Intestinal System	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6	45.7
Respiratory System	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.4	15.8
Infections	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	-16.6
Skin	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.8	-9.4
Nutrition and Blood	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.8	107.2
Musculoskeletal and Joint Disorders	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	4.9
Eye	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	34.2
Obstetrics, Gynae+Urinary Tract Disorders	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	64.7
Dressings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	-3.9
Immunological Products and Vaccines	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	16.3
Ear, Nose and Oropharynx	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	13.3
Appliances	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	130.2
Malignant Disease & Immunosuppression	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	56.0
Stoma Appliances	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	98.1
Other Drugs and Preparations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	69.0
Incontinence Appliances	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	41.8
Anaesthesia	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.5
Preparations used in Diagnosis	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-100.0
Total	13.0	13.3	14.4	15.3	16.1	17.0	17.7	18.7	19.1	20.0	54.1

(a) Per registered head of population. In order of highest to lowest 2007-08.

Data for 1999-2000 is not available in this detail.

Table 3: Items prescribed (and dispensed) by General Medical Practitioners in Wales - cost (net ingredient cost) (a)

Therapeutic Class	Actual cost (£ millions)										
	1997-98	1998-99	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	% Change
Central Nervous System	49.50	56.26	71.26	82.38	91.91	99.65	105.42	107.59	114.83	122.07	146.62
Cardiovascular System	62.97	71.44	93.93	107.91	129.33	146.11	150.80	126.33	130.73	122.04	93.82
Respiratory System	41.57	44.64	49.09	52.82	56.51	59.52	63.01	65.55	67.95	73.68	77.25
Endocrine System	24.96	27.90	34.23	39.46	44.44	48.06	52.30	56.59	59.10	59.09	136.68
Gastro-Intestinal System	46.62	45.50	43.74	45.55	47.96	47.29	48.18	47.63	37.51	33.06	-29.09
Nutrition and Blood	9.82	10.88	14.08	15.93	18.22	20.25	22.51	25.09	28.37	29.76	203.01
Malignant Disease & Immunosuppression	10.15	11.01	13.44	14.77	16.45	17.95	18.80	17.64	19.59	21.54	112.23
Obstetrics, Gynae+Urinary Tract Disorders	5.33	6.63	9.42	10.85	12.53	14.12	15.60	16.62	16.41	17.70	232.17
Skin	12.55	12.25	12.28	12.93	13.68	13.79	14.04	14.04	14.55	15.77	25.63
Musculoskeletal and Joint Disorders	15.99	15.94	18.41	19.44	21.20	22.70	21.50	15.99	15.58	14.17	-11.38
Dressings	6.27	6.63	7.65	8.42	9.31	10.60	11.48	12.40	12.53	13.08	108.58
Infections	14.58	14.14	14.92	14.67	14.81	14.94	15.17	14.35	14.19	13.05	-10.50
Stoma Appliances	6.18	6.39	7.40	7.93	8.72	9.33	10.11	10.97	12.18	12.83	107.67
Eye	4.26	4.58	5.68	6.39	6.83	7.41	7.83	8.35	9.04	9.56	124.43
Appliances	2.84	3.05	3.80	4.34	5.00	5.65	6.34	7.52	8.47	9.23	225.04
Immunological Products and Vaccines	5.20	5.02	5.52	5.43	5.39	5.71	6.26	7.93	6.94	6.84	31.60
Ear, Nose and Oropharynx	2.93	3.09	3.21	3.44	3.62	3.85	3.90	4.02	4.55	4.98	70.23
Other Drugs and Preparations	0.37	0.41	0.57	0.69	0.78	0.74	1.00	1.73	3.20	3.03	709.22
Incontinence Appliances	1.79	1.84	1.86	1.94	2.06	2.12	2.17	2.33	2.46	2.49	39.23
Anaesthesia	0.15	0.16	0.18	0.22	0.27	0.34	0.44	0.52	0.64	0.44	196.95
Preparations used in Diagnosis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-100.00
Total	324.03	347.77	410.68	455.53	509.02	550.13	576.88	563.20	578.82	584.41	80.36

(a) In order of highest to lowest 2007-08.

Data for 1999-2000 is not available in this detail.

Table 4: Items prescribed (and dispensed) by General Medical Practitioners in Wales - cost (net ingredient cost) (a)

At 1997-98 Prices (£ millions)

Therapeutic Class	1997-98	1998-99	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	% Change
Central Nervous System	49.50	54.87	67.17	75.83	82.04	86.44	88.99	88.91	92.39	95.43	92.80
Cardiovascular System	62.97	69.67	88.54	99.34	115.45	126.75	127.30	104.40	105.18	95.41	51.52
Respiratory System	41.57	43.53	46.27	48.63	50.44	51.63	53.19	54.17	54.66	57.60	38.57
Endocrine System	24.96	27.21	32.26	36.33	39.67	41.69	44.15	46.76	47.55	46.19	85.03
Gastro-Intestinal System	46.62	44.38	41.23	41.93	42.81	41.02	40.67	39.36	30.18	25.84	-44.57
Nutrition and Blood	9.82	10.62	13.27	14.67	16.27	17.57	19.01	20.73	22.82	23.27	136.88
Malignant Disease & Immunosuppression	10.15	10.74	12.67	13.60	14.69	15.57	15.87	14.58	15.76	16.84	65.91
Obstetrics, Gynae+Urinary Tract Disorders	5.33	6.47	8.88	9.99	11.18	12.25	13.17	13.74	13.20	13.83	159.68
Skin	12.55	11.95	11.57	11.90	12.21	11.96	11.85	11.60	11.71	12.33	-1.79
Musculoskeletal and Joint Disorders	15.99	15.55	17.35	17.89	18.93	19.69	18.15	13.21	12.53	11.08	-30.72
Dressings	6.27	6.47	7.21	7.75	8.31	9.20	9.69	10.25	10.08	10.23	63.06
Infections	14.58	13.79	14.06	13.51	13.22	12.96	12.81	11.86	11.41	10.20	-30.03
Stoma Appliances	6.18	6.23	6.98	7.30	7.78	8.09	8.54	9.07	9.80	10.03	62.34
Eye	4.26	4.47	5.36	5.88	6.09	6.42	6.61	6.90	7.27	7.47	75.45
Appliances	2.84	2.97	3.58	4.00	4.46	4.90	5.35	6.21	6.81	7.22	154.10
Immunological Products and Vaccines	5.20	4.90	5.21	5.00	4.81	4.95	5.28	6.56	5.59	5.35	2.88
Ear, Nose and Oropharynx	2.93	3.02	3.02	3.17	3.23	3.34	3.30	3.32	3.66	3.90	33.08
Other Drugs and Preparations	0.37	0.40	0.54	0.64	0.69	0.64	0.85	1.43	2.57	2.37	532.61
Incontinence Appliances	1.79	1.79	1.76	1.79	1.84	1.84	1.83	1.93	1.98	1.95	8.84
Anaesthesia	0.15	0.15	0.17	0.20	0.24	0.29	0.37	0.43	0.51	0.34	132.14
Preparations used in Diagnosis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-100.00
Total	324.03	339.19	387.10	419.34	454.37	477.23	486.99	465.42	465.67	456.87	40.99

(a) In order of highest to lowest 2007-08.

Data for 1999-2000 is not available in this detail.

Table 5: Items prescribed (and dispensed) by General Medical Practitioners in Wales - cost (net ingredient cost) (a)

Therapeutic Class	Actual Cost (per registered head of population)										
	1997-98	1998-99	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	% Change
Central Nervous System	16.55	18.78	23.69	27.38	30.27	32.97	34.67	35.26	37.13	39.46	138.4
Cardiovascular System	21.06	23.84	31.22	35.87	42.59	48.35	49.60	41.40	42.27	39.45	87.3
Respiratory System	13.90	14.90	16.32	17.56	18.61	19.69	20.72	21.48	21.97	23.81	71.3
Endocrine System	8.35	9.31	11.38	13.12	14.64	15.90	17.20	18.54	19.11	19.10	128.8
Gastro-Intestinal System	15.59	15.19	14.54	15.14	15.79	15.65	15.85	15.61	12.13	10.69	-31.5
Nutrition and Blood	3.28	3.63	4.68	5.30	6.00	6.70	7.40	8.22	9.17	9.62	192.9
Malignant Disease & Immunosuppression	3.39	3.68	4.47	4.91	5.42	5.94	6.18	5.78	6.33	6.96	105.1
Obstetrics, Gynae+Urinary Tract Disorders	1.78	2.21	3.13	3.61	4.13	4.67	5.13	5.45	5.31	5.72	221.1
Skin	4.20	4.09	4.08	4.30	4.50	4.56	4.62	4.60	4.70	5.10	21.4
Musculoskeletal and Joint Disorders	5.35	5.32	6.12	6.46	6.98	7.51	7.07	5.24	5.04	4.58	-14.3
Dressings	2.10	2.21	2.54	2.80	3.06	3.51	3.77	4.06	4.05	4.23	101.6
Infections	4.88	4.72	4.96	4.88	4.88	4.95	4.99	4.70	4.59	4.22	-13.5
Stoma Appliances	2.07	2.13	2.46	2.64	2.87	3.09	3.33	3.59	3.94	4.15	100.7
Eye	1.42	1.53	1.89	2.12	2.25	2.45	2.58	2.74	2.92	3.09	116.9
Appliances	0.95	1.02	1.26	1.44	1.65	1.87	2.09	2.46	2.74	2.98	214.2
Immunological Products and Vaccines	1.74	1.68	1.84	1.81	1.77	1.89	2.06	2.60	2.25	2.21	27.2
Ear, Nose and Oropharynx	0.98	1.03	1.07	1.14	1.19	1.28	1.28	1.32	1.47	1.61	64.5
Other Drugs and Preparations	0.13	0.14	0.19	0.23	0.26	0.24	0.33	0.57	1.03	0.98	682.2
Incontinence Appliances	0.60	0.61	0.62	0.65	0.68	0.70	0.71	0.76	0.79	0.81	34.6
Anaesthesia	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.11	0.14	0.17	0.21	0.14	187.0
Preparations used in Diagnosis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	0.00	-	-100.0
Total	108.36	116.07	136.51	151.41	167.64	182.03	189.73	184.55	187.14	188.90	74.3

(a) Per registered head of population. In order of highest to lowest 2007-08.

Data for 1999-2000 is not available in this detail.

Table 6: Items prescribed (and dispensed) by General Medical Practitioners in Wales - cost (net ingredient cost) (a)

At 1997-98 Prices (per registered head of population)

Therapeutic Class	1997-98	1998-99	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	% Change
Central Nervous System	16.55	18.31	22.33	25.21	27.02	28.60	29.27	29.14	29.87	30.84	86.35
Cardiovascular System	21.06	23.25	29.43	33.02	38.02	41.94	41.87	34.21	34.00	30.84	46.45
Respiratory System	13.90	14.53	15.38	16.16	16.61	17.08	17.49	17.75	17.67	18.62	33.93
Endocrine System	8.35	9.08	10.72	12.07	13.07	13.80	14.52	15.32	15.37	14.93	78.84
Gastro-Intestinal System	15.59	14.81	13.70	13.94	14.10	13.57	13.38	12.90	9.76	8.35	-46.42
Nutrition and Blood	3.28	3.54	4.41	4.88	5.36	5.81	6.25	6.79	7.38	7.52	128.96
Malignant Disease & Immunosuppression	3.39	3.59	4.21	4.52	4.84	5.15	5.22	4.78	5.10	5.44	60.36
Obstetrics, Gynae+Urinary Tract Disorders	1.78	2.16	2.95	3.32	3.68	4.05	4.33	4.50	4.27	4.47	150.99
Skin	4.20	3.99	3.85	3.96	4.02	3.96	3.90	3.80	3.79	3.98	-5.07
Musculoskeletal and Joint Disorders	5.35	5.19	5.77	5.95	6.23	6.52	5.97	4.33	4.05	3.58	-33.03
Dressings	2.10	2.16	2.40	2.58	2.74	3.04	3.19	3.36	3.26	3.31	57.61
Infections	4.88	4.60	4.67	4.49	4.35	4.29	4.21	3.89	3.69	3.30	-32.37
Stoma Appliances	2.07	2.08	2.32	2.43	2.56	2.68	2.81	2.97	3.17	3.24	56.91
Eye	1.42	1.49	1.78	1.95	2.01	2.13	2.17	2.26	2.35	2.42	69.58
Appliances	0.95	0.99	1.19	1.33	1.47	1.62	1.76	2.04	2.20	2.33	145.60
Immunological Products and Vaccines	1.74	1.64	1.73	1.66	1.58	1.64	1.74	2.15	1.81	1.73	-0.56
Ear, Nose and Oropharynx	0.98	1.01	1.00	1.05	1.07	1.11	1.08	1.09	1.18	1.26	28.63
Other Drugs and Preparations	0.13	0.13	0.18	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.28	0.47	0.83	0.77	511.45
Incontinence Appliances	0.60	0.60	0.58	0.59	0.61	0.61	0.60	0.63	0.64	0.63	5.20
Anaesthesia	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.10	0.12	0.14	0.17	0.11	124.38
Preparations used in Diagnosis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-100.00
Total	108.36	113.21	128.67	139.39	149.64	157.91	160.17	152.51	150.56	147.67	36.28

(a) Per registered head of population. In order of highest to lowest 2007-08.

Data for 1999-2000 is not available in this detail.

Table 7: Items prescribed (and dispensed) by General Medical Practitioners in Wales - cost (net ingredient cost) per prescription item (a)

Therapeutic Class											Actual Cost
	1997-98	1998-99	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	% Change
Preparations used in Diagnosis	31.39	43.42	46.22	135.50	75.52	93.61	.	.	100.00	.	-
Stoma Appliances	63.71	65.82	66.12	65.37	66.10	65.56	65.27	64.78	65.05	64.55	1.3
Malignant Disease & Immunosuppression	47.70	48.81	53.70	56.13	59.16	61.85	63.09	56.64	60.21	62.73	31.5
Incontinence Appliances	31.36	31.54	31.61	31.41	31.12	31.16	30.86	31.05	30.28	29.76	-5.1
Other Drugs and Preparations	5.84	6.80	9.87	11.30	12.04	13.90	17.02	23.23	33.56	27.02	362.8
Respiratory System	11.49	12.16	13.20	13.73	14.50	15.23	15.90	16.03	16.57	17.00	48.0
Dressings	8.04	8.53	9.88	10.67	11.96	13.51	14.99	16.21	16.68	16.87	109.7
Obstetrics, Gynae+Urinary Tract Disorders	7.30	8.72	10.94	11.90	13.03	13.87	14.72	14.79	13.97	14.23	94.9
Appliances	10.35	11.23	12.57	13.12	13.92	13.92	14.31	14.36	13.88	14.12	36.5
Nutrition and Blood	9.00	9.71	11.72	12.15	12.50	12.79	12.88	12.92	13.27	12.72	41.3
Endocrine System	10.66	10.99	11.47	11.89	12.26	12.32	12.48	12.42	12.14	11.50	7.8
Central Nervous System	6.14	6.66	7.82	8.60	9.23	9.83	10.18	10.12	10.51	10.59	72.6
Immunological Products and Vaccines	8.30	8.39	8.06	7.90	8.15	8.27	8.65	8.64	9.09	9.08	9.3
Eye	4.65	4.92	5.88	6.35	6.59	6.83	7.04	7.18	7.54	7.52	61.7
Anaesthesia	2.96	3.04	3.65	4.29	5.02	6.36	8.07	9.11	10.79	7.10	140.1
Ear, Nose and Oropharynx	4.78	5.06	5.35	5.56	5.81	6.26	6.41	6.24	6.94	6.94	45.2
Gastro-Intestinal System	14.64	13.83	12.57	12.50	12.58	11.98	11.68	10.94	8.27	6.88	-53.0
Skin	4.98	4.97	5.13	5.35	5.68	5.86	6.04	6.04	6.50	6.67	34.1
Musculoskeletal and Joint Disorders	7.91	7.78	8.76	8.88	9.31	9.83	9.39	7.32	7.32	6.46	-18.3
Cardiovascular System	7.48	7.87	8.58	8.85	9.43	9.56	8.89	6.84	6.69	6.01	-19.7
Infections	4.53	4.88	5.62	5.61	5.72	5.69	5.80	5.37	5.26	4.70	3.7
Total	8.33	8.70	9.48	9.90	10.44	10.73	10.70	9.87	9.80	9.42	13.1

(a) In order of highest to lowest 2007-08.

Data for 1999-2000 is not available in this detail.

Table 8: Items prescribed (and dispensed) by General Medical Practitioners in Wales - cost (net ingredient cost) per prescription item (a)

At 1997-98 Prices

Therapeutic Class	1997-98	1998-99	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	% Change
Preparations used in Diagnosis	31.39	42.35	43.56	124.74	67.41	81.21	.	.	80.45	.	.
Stoma Appliances	63.71	64.19	62.32	60.18	59.00	56.87	55.10	53.53	52.33	50.46	-20.8
Malignant Disease & Immunosuppression	47.70	47.61	50.61	51.68	52.81	53.65	53.26	46.81	48.44	49.04	2.8
Incontinence Appliances	31.36	30.76	29.80	28.92	27.78	27.03	26.05	25.66	24.36	23.26	-25.8
Other Drugs and Preparations	5.84	6.63	9.30	10.40	10.75	12.06	14.37	19.20	27.00	21.12	261.8
Respiratory System	11.49	11.86	12.45	12.64	12.94	13.21	13.42	13.25	13.33	13.29	15.7
Dressings	8.04	8.32	9.32	9.82	10.67	11.72	12.65	13.40	13.42	13.18	63.9
Obstetrics, Gynae+Urinary Tract Disorders	7.30	8.51	10.31	10.95	11.63	12.03	12.42	12.22	11.24	11.12	52.4
Appliances	10.35	10.95	11.85	12.08	12.43	12.07	12.08	11.87	11.16	11.04	6.7
Nutrition and Blood	9.00	9.47	11.05	11.19	11.16	11.10	10.87	10.68	10.68	9.95	10.5
Endocrine System	10.66	10.72	10.82	10.94	10.95	10.68	10.54	10.26	9.76	8.99	-15.7
Central Nervous System	6.14	6.50	7.37	7.92	8.24	8.52	8.60	8.36	8.45	8.28	35.0
Immunological Products and Vaccines	8.30	8.19	7.60	7.28	7.27	7.17	7.30	7.14	7.31	7.10	-14.5
Eye	4.65	4.80	5.54	5.84	5.88	5.93	5.95	5.94	6.07	5.88	26.4
Anaesthesia	2.96	2.97	3.44	3.95	4.48	5.52	6.82	7.53	8.68	5.55	87.7
Ear, Nose and Oropharynx	4.78	4.93	5.04	5.12	5.18	5.43	5.41	5.16	5.58	5.43	13.5
Gastro-Intestinal System	14.64	13.49	11.85	11.51	11.23	10.39	9.86	9.04	6.66	5.38	-63.2
Skin	4.98	4.84	4.83	4.93	5.07	5.08	5.10	4.99	5.23	5.21	4.8
Musculoskeletal and Joint Disorders	7.91	7.59	8.25	8.18	8.31	8.53	7.93	6.05	5.89	5.05	-36.2
Cardiovascular System	7.48	7.68	8.09	8.14	8.42	8.29	7.50	5.66	5.38	4.69	-37.3
Infections	4.53	4.76	5.30	5.16	5.11	4.94	4.89	4.44	4.23	3.67	-18.9
Total	8.33	8.48	8.94	9.11	9.32	9.31	9.03	8.16	7.88	7.37	-11.6

(a) In order of highest to lowest 2007-08.

Data for 1999-2000 is not available in this detail.

Table 9: Prescriptions items prescribed generically

Percentages

All items							
1991-92	40.5						
1992-93	43.0						
1993-94	46.3						
1994-95	48.5						
1995-96	52.3						
1996-97	56.3						
1997-98	59.0						
1998-99	61.4						
2000-01	66.7						
2001-02	69.1						
2002-03	72.4						
2003-04	75.7						
2004-05	77.9						
2005-06	79.9						
2006-07	82.5						
2007-08	83.6						
Therapeutic Class	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Gastro-Intestinal System	63.0	66.8	70.3	72.9	75.9	78.7	80.5
Cardiovascular System	83.9	86.7	89.2	90.6	92.1	93.6	94.4
Respiratory System	53.9	58.1	62.6	65.8	70.0	74.2	74.6
Central Nervous System	79.8	82.3	84.6	86.1	87.4	88.8	89.8
Infections	86.5	89.4	91.7	93.5	95.0	96.5	97.3
Endocrine System	64.2	66.9	70.9	74.2	76.7	79.2	80.5
Obstetrics,Gynae+Urinary Tract Disorders	23.5	28.5	33.6	38.4	43.0	48.1	51.9
Malignant Disease & Immunosuppression	76.6	77.0	77.8	78.9	80.2	82.1	83.5
Nutrition And Blood	55.0	55.5	55.7	54.9	54.2	55.1	56.5
Musculoskeletal & Joint Diseases	63.2	68.2	73.2	77.2	80.0	83.4	85.5
Eye	37.6	41.2	45.6	49.7	53.5	57.7	59.8
Ear, Nose And Oropharynx	26.7	32.5	37.8	42.3	47.3	51.5	54.6
Skin	21.5	24.6	28.1	30.6	33.5	37.3	39.8
Immunological Products & Vaccines	37.6	35.9	38.5	33.1	34.3	42.8	38.6
Anaesthesia	49.0	52.6	54.3	53.9	54.3	57.6	59.1
Preparations used in Diagnosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Drugs And Preparations	51.4	50.0	51.5	54.3	63.5	69.3	71.4
Dressings	99.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Appliances	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Incontinence Appliances	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Stoma Appliances	64.3	61.8	59.1	57.7	55.2	85.7	100.0
Total	69.1	72.4	75.7	77.9	79.9	82.5	83.6