

Questions raised on Antibiotics - November 2013

Health: Antibiotics

House of Lords

25th November 2013



Baroness Manzoor (Liberal Democrat)

To ask **Her Majesty's** Government whether the number and amount of antibiotics prescribed by general practitioners increased or decreased over the past ten years; and, if so, by how much.



Earl Howe (Conservative)

Information is not collected centrally on prescriptions issued in primary care, only those issued and dispensed. From the data set used it is not possible to separately identify prescriptions written by general practitioners (GPs) from those of other prescribers, such as nurses and pharmacists, which were subsequently dispensed.

Comparing the change over the past 10 years, the number of prescription items for antibiotic medicines, written in the United Kingdom and dispensed in the community in England, increased by 10.5%, from 33.8 million in 2002 to 37.3 million in 2012 while the net ingredient cost (**NIC**) increased by 6.9%, from £157.8 million in 2002 to £168.8 million in 2012.

Number of prescription items for antibiotic medicines written in the United Kingdom and dispensed, in the community, in England with the net ingredient cost (NIC) ^{1, 2}

Year	Items (000s)	NIC (£000s)
2002	33,750.6	157,814.7
2003	34,332.5	162,292.2
2004	33,119.0	164,253.2
2005	33,825.7	154,009.2
2006	33,627.5	161,397.6
2007	35,429.1	163,351.1
2008	34,801.3	147,414.3
2009	34,182.9	133,521.5
2010	35,302.0	155,790.1
2011	35,333.7	154,611.8
2012	37,307.0	168,768.0

Sources:

Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system. The Health & Social Care Information Centre, Prescribing and Primary Care Services.

Notes:

1

As classified within **British National Formulary (BNF)** paragraphs 5.1.1 Penicillins, 5.1.2 Cepha/osporins, carbapenems, and other beta-lactams, 5.1.3 Tetracyclines, 5.1.4 Aminoglycosides, 5.1.5 Macrolides, 5.1.6 Clindamycin, 5.1.7 Some other antibacterials, 5.1.11 Metronidazole and tinidazole, 5.1.12 Quinolones.

2

Prescriptions include those written by GPs, nurses, pharmacists and other non-medical prescribers.