

QIPP Prescribing Comparators (2013/14)

Descriptions and Specifications

December 2013

Contents

Contents	2
Introduction	3
Background	3
Aim and purposes of the comparators	3
Access to the comparators	3
Further information	3
Any comments?	4
Current comparators (August 2013 onwards)	4
Summary of amendments (Q1 2013/14 data, August 2013)	9
Summary of new comparator (Q1 2013/14 data, August 2013)	10
Implementation of revised STAR PU (13) weightings (Q3 2013/14)	10
Descriptions and specifications for the current comparators	11
Summary of retired comparators	29
Appendix 1: Glossary	31
Appendix 2: Amendments to QIPP Prescribing Comparators – August 2013	33

Introduction

This document provides descriptions and specifications for the 17 current (2013/14) QIPP prescribing comparators, including amendments and additions introduced from quarter 1 2013/14 data onwards released in August 2013 and previous (now retired) QIPP prescribing comparators. The document should be read alongside the publication '[Key therapeutic topics – Medicines management options for local implementation](#)' (last updated 29 January 2013), produced by the Medicines and Prescribing Centre (MPC), NICE.

Background

An original set of 13 QIPP prescribing comparators were introduced in March 2011 to support the QIPP (Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention) medicine use and procurement work stream. Additions, revisions, and retirements to the QIPP Prescribing Comparators were implemented in February 2012, May 2012, August 2012 and August 2013 following discussion and feedback within the QIPP medicine work stream wider reference group, QIPP partners group and with Strategic Health Authority, Primary Care Trust prescribing leads and industry partners.

Aim and purposes of the comparators

The purpose of the comparators is to highlight variation in prescribing across organisations and support local discussion and decisions regarding QIPP, with the aim of reducing variation and a movement of the mean in the appropriate direction over time. The comparators are intended to support organisations and prescribers in reviewing the appropriateness of current prescribing, revise prescribing where appropriate and monitor implementation.

For some of the comparator topics more detailed work, probably involving patient-level audit, may be required to understand whether current practice – as identified in the comparator – is based on recommended practice. The need for this may apply irrespective of the current level of prescribing.

Access to the comparators

Comparator values (reports and data tables) are available via NHSBSA Prescription Services '[Information Services Portal](#)'.

Further information

The comparators are listed using the same headings and order as in the '[Key therapeutic topics – Medicines management options for local implementation](#)' publication. For each description and specification:

- The comparator titles are the same as those used in the Information Services Portal (Prescription Services, NHSBSA).

- BNF Name and BNF Code described in numerators and denominators are as used in ePACT (Prescription Services, NHSBSA)

A glossary of other terms used in this document is available in appendix 1. More detailed information on the prescribing measures and terminology used can be found in the Prescribing Support Unit (NHS Information Centre) booklet – [Prescribing Measures and their application](#)

A [Prescribing Measures e-learning resource](#) is available on the National Prescribing Centre (legacy) website.

Any comments?

Please send any questions, feedback or comments about the QIPP Prescribing Comparators to qippcomparators@hscic.uk

Current comparators (August 2013 onwards)

There are currently 17 QIPP prescribing comparators covering 12 of the 14 therapeutic topics included in the publication '[Key therapeutic topics – Medicines management options for local implementation](#)' (last updated 29 January 2013). The two key therapeutic topics for which it has not been possible to develop supporting comparators are:

- High dose inhaled corticosteroids in asthma
- Low dose antipsychotics in people with dementia

Following feedback received from NHS and industry partners in January 2013, amendments have been made, from quarter 1 2013/14 (data available from August 2013), to 4 of the existing 16 comparators and an additional comparator has been introduced. The feedback received is available in a separate document - [Feedback on proposals for retaining, amending and retiring the current QIPP prescribing comparators and proposal for a new QIPP prescribing comparator \(April 2013\)](#) – available via the Health & Social Care Information Centre (H&SCIC) website.

Summary of current comparators (2013/14)

A summary of the current QIPP prescribing comparators is provided in the following table.

Key therapeutic topic	Comparator	Comparator description	Comments
Laxatives	Laxatives ADQ/STAR PU	Number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for laxatives per Laxatives (BNF 1.6) COST based STAR-PU.	Introduced February 2012. Amended to current comparator in May 2012.
Renin-angiotensin system drugs	ACE inhibitor % items	Number of prescription items for angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all drugs affecting the renin-angiotensin system excluding aliskiren.	Introduced March 2011.
Lipid lowering drugs including ezetimibe	Low cost lipid modifying drugs	Number of prescription items for generic statin preparations listed under category M in part VIII of the Drug Tariff as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all statins, plus the total number of prescription items for combination of simvastatin/ezetimibe, plus total number of prescription items for ezetimibe alone.	Introduced March 2011. Amended August 2013 (Q1 2013/14 data release). See Summary of amendments (August 2013), Descriptions and specifications and Appendix 2 for further details.
	Lipid modifying drugs: Ezetimibe % items	Number of items for ezetimibe and ezetimibe/simvastatin combinations as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all statins, plus the total number of prescription items for combination of simvastatin/ezetimibe, plus total number of prescription items for ezetimibe alone.	Introduced February 2012.

Key therapeutic topic	Comparator	Comparator description	Comments
Omega-3 fatty acid supplements	Omega-3 ADQ/STAR PU	Number of ADQs for omega-3 fatty acid compounds per Omega-3 fatty acid compounds (BNF 2.12 sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PU.	Comparator introduced August 2013 (Q1 2013/14 data release). See Summary of new comparator and Description and specifications for further detail.
Hypnotics	Hypnotics ADQ/STAR PU (ADQ based)	Number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for benzodiazepines (indicated for use as hypnotics) and "Z" drugs per Hypnotics (BNF 4.1.1 sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PU.	Introduced March 2011. Amended August 2013 (Q1 2013/14 data release). See Summary of amendments (August 2013), Descriptions and specifications and Appendix 2 for further detail.
First choice antidepressant use in adults with depression or anxiety disorder	Antidepressant (selected): ADQ/STAR PU (ADQ based)	Number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for selected antidepressant prescribing per Antidepressants (BNF 4.3 sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PU.	Introduced February 2012. Amended August 2013 (Q1 2013/14 data). See Summary of amendments (August 2013), Descriptions and specifications and Appendix 2 for further detail.
	Antidepressants: First choice % items	Number of prescription items for '1 st choice' generic SSRIs as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for selected 'other antidepressants'.	Introduced August 2012.

Key therapeutic topic	Comparator	Comparator description	Comments
Antibiotic prescribing - especially quinolones and cephalosporins	Antibacterial items/STAR PU	Number of prescription items for antibacterial drugs (BNF 5.1) per Oral antibacterials (BNF 5.1 sub-set) ITEM based STAR-PU.	Introduced March 2011.
	Cephalosporins & quinolones % items	Number of prescription items for cephalosporins and quinolones as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for selected antibacterial drugs (BNF 5.1).	Introduced March 2011.
Three-day courses of trimethoprim for uncomplicated urinary tract infection	3 days trimethoprim ADQ/item	Number of average daily quantities (ADQs) per item for trimethoprim 200mg tablets.	Introduced February 2012
Minocycline	Minocycline ADQ/1000 patients	Number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for minocycline per 1000 patients.	Introduced February 2012. Amended to current title and description in May 2012.
Type 2 diabetes mellitus	Hypoglycaemic drugs	Number of prescription items for metformin and sulfonylureas as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all antidiabetic drugs.	Introduced March 2011
	Long-acting insulin analogues	Number of prescription items for long-acting human analogue insulins as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all long-acting and intermediate acting insulins excluding biphasic insulins.	Introduced March 2011. Amended August 2013 (Q1 2013/14 data release). See Summary of amendments (August 2013) and Appendix 2 for further detail.

Key therapeutic topic	Comparator	Comparator description	Comments
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)	NSAIDs: Ibuprofen & naproxen % items	Number of prescription items for ibuprofen and naproxen as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all NSAIDs.	Introduced March 2011.
	NSAIDs ADQ/STAR PU	Number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for all NSAIDs (BNF 10.1.1) per Oral NSAID (BNF 10.1.1 sub-set) COST based STAR-PU.	Introduced March 2011.
Wound care products	Wound care products: NIC/item	Cost (NIC) per item for wound care products.	Introduced August 2012.

Summary of amendments (Q1 2013/14 data, August 2013)

Amendments have been made to 4 of the 16 existing (2012/13) comparators. The changes made are effective from the Q1 2013/14 data release. Introducing the revised QIPP comparators has resulted in changes to comparator values in Q1 2013/14 data compared with the previous 5 quarters. For two of the comparators the changes have been significant. Since this may be problematic to users who require in-year continuity in the monitoring of prescribing, the original comparator will be reinstated and the revised comparator will be backdated to cover the same time period. The original comparator will be available alongside the revised comparator until the end of 2013/14 data. (NB: available Q3 2013/14 data release (February 2014)).

Further detail of the amendments is provided in appendix 2.

1. Low cost lipid modifying drugs

- The numerator has been amended to only include generic statin preparations listed under Category M in part VIII of the drug tariff.
- The comparator description has been amended to reflect the amended numerator.
- The revised comparator was introduced from Q1 2013/14 data as a continuation from the previous to the revised comparator. i.e. data for the quarters prior to Q1 2013/14 is for the previous comparator. This may have resulted in a marked shift in values.

2. Hypnotics ADQ/STAR PU (ADQ based)

- The denominator has been amended to utilise a new Hypnotic (BNF 4.1.1. sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PU developed specifically for the numerator set.
- The comparator title and description has been amended to reflect the amended denominator.
- The revised comparator was introduced from Q1 2013/14 data and backdated for the previous 5 quarters (NB: available Q3 2013/14 data release (February 2014)).
- The previous comparator will continue to be available up to and including Q4 2013/14 data.

3. Antidepressant (selected): ADQ/STAR PU (ADQ based)

- The numerator has been amended to only measure total ADQs for the drugs included in the amended denominator (see below). NB: same 'selected antidepressants' as the denominator for the 'first choice' antidepressant comparator introduced in August 2012.
- The denominator has been amended to utilise new Antidepressants (BNF 4.3 sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PU developed specifically for the numerator set.
- The comparator title and description have been amended to reflect the amended numerator and amended denominator.
- The revised comparator was introduced from Q1 2013/14 data and backdated for the previous 5 quarters (available Q3 2013/14 data release (February 2014)).
- The previous comparator continues to be available via the Information Services Portal as a volume comparator (Antidepressants ADQ/STAR PU).

4. Long/intermediate acting insulin analogues

- The numerator has been amended to include degludec (a new long acting insulin analogue introduced February 2013).
- The comparator title has been amended from 'Long/intermediate acting insulin analogues' to 'Long-acting insulin analogues'
- The comparator description has been amended to remove specific reference to detemir and glargine and therefore include all current and any future long-acting insulin analogues.
- The revised comparator was introduced from Q1 2013/14 data as a continuation from the previous to the revised comparator. This is unlikely to have resulted in any noticeable change in values due to the amendment as the current volume of prescribing degludec is negligible.

Summary of new comparator (Q1 2013/14 data, August 2013)

1. Omega-3 fatty acid compounds

- The comparator was introduced in August 2013 (Q1 2013/14 data release) to support a new key therapeutic topic (Omega-3 fatty acid supplements) and backdated for the previous 5 quarters.

Implementation of revised STAR PU (13) weightings (Q3 2013/14)

Cost/item based Specific Therapeutic group Age-sex (STAR PU) weightings, revised by the Prescribing and Primary Care Team (HSCIC) in September 2013, are to be applied to QIPP comparators from Q3 2013/14 data (available February 2014). This will affect the following 3 comparators:

- Laxatives ADQ/STAR PU
- Antibacterial items/STAR PU
- NSAIDs: ADQ/STAR PU

NB: Within the Information Services Portal there will be the facility to switch between 2009 and 2013 STAR PUs

Newly developed ADQ based STAR PUs have already been introduced into the 3 other comparators that utilise STAR PUs.

- Omega-3 ADQ/STAR PU
- Hypnotics ADQ/STAR PU (ADQ based)
- Antidepressant (selected): ADQ/STAR PU (ADQ based)

NB: 2009 values not available for new ADQ based STAR PU weightings.

Descriptions and specifications for the current comparators

A full description and specification for each of the 17 current QIPP prescribing comparators is provided below.

Laxatives

Comparator	Laxatives ADQ/STAR PU																																	
Comparator Description	Number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for laxatives per Laxatives (BNF 1.6) COST based STAR-PU																																	
Numerator	Total average daily quantity (ADQ) usage for laxatives (BNF 1.6) <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Laxatives</td> <td>0106</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Laxatives	0106																													
BNF Name	BNF Code																																	
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Denominator	Total number of Laxatives (BNF 1.6) COST based STAR-PUs <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Laxatives (BNF 1.6) Cost-based STAR-PU (2009 weighting)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Age Range</th> <th>Male Weighting</th> <th>Female Weighting</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0 to 4</td> <td>0.4</td> <td>0.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 to 14</td> <td>0.4</td> <td>0.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 to 24</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25 to 34</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35 to 44</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>0.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>45 to 54</td> <td>0.3</td> <td>0.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>55 to 64</td> <td>0.7</td> <td>1.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65 to 74</td> <td>1.6</td> <td>2.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>75+</td> <td>4.7</td> <td>5.8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Laxatives (BNF 1.6) Cost-based STAR-PU (2009 weighting)			Age Range	Male Weighting	Female Weighting	0 to 4	0.4	0.5	5 to 14	0.4	0.3	15 to 24	0.1	0.2	25 to 34	0.1	0.4	35 to 44	0.2	0.6	45 to 54	0.3	0.9	55 to 64	0.7	1.4	65 to 74	1.6	2.3	75+	4.7	5.8
Laxatives (BNF 1.6) Cost-based STAR-PU (2009 weighting)																																		
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55 to 64	0.7	1.4																																
65 to 74	1.6	2.3																																
75+	4.7	5.8																																
Comments	<p>The current comparator was introduced in May 2012 replacing 'Total items for laxatives per 1000 ASTRO-PUs' comparator introduced in February 2012.</p> <p>Revised 2013 weightings to be used from Q3 2013/14 data release (available February 2014). NB: Within the Portal there will be the facility to switch between 2009 and 2013 STAR PUs.</p>																																	

Renin-angiotensin system drugs

Comparator	ACE inhibitor % items	
Comparator Description	Number of prescription items for angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all drugs affecting the renin-angiotensin system excluding aliskiren.	
Numerator	Number of prescription items for BNF 2.5.5.1 (ACE inhibitors)	
	BNF Name	BNF Code
	Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitors	0205051
Denominator	Number of prescription items for BNF 2.5.5.1 (ACE inhibitors) and BNF 2.5.5.2 (angiotensin-II receptor antagonists).	
	BNF Name	BNF Code
	Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitors	0205051
	Angiotensin-II Receptor Antagonists	0205052
Comments	Denominator excludes direct renin inhibitors (BNF 2.5.5.3) i.e. aliskiren. Licenced indications limited to essential hypertension. Use currently remains low at 0.073% of all items prescribed for BNF 2.5.5 (Q1 2013/14. Source: ePACT).	

Lipid lowering drugs including ezetimibe

Comparator	Low cost lipid modifying drugs																												
Comparator Description	<p>Number of prescription items for generic statin preparations listed under category M in part VIII of the Drug Tariff as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all statins, plus the total number of prescription items for combination of simvastatin/ezetimibe, plus total number of prescription items for ezetimibe alone.</p> <p>NB: Revised in August 2013 (Q1 2013/14 data release). See appendix 2 for further details of amendment.</p>																												
Numerator	<p>Number of prescription items for generic statin preparations listed under category M in part VIII of the Drug Tariff (sub-set of BNF 2.12).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Atorvastatin_Tab 10mg</td><td>0212000B0AAAAAA</td></tr> <tr><td>Atorvastatin_Tab 20mg</td><td>0212000B0AAABAB</td></tr> <tr><td>Atorvastatin_Tab 40mg</td><td>0212000B0AAACAC</td></tr> <tr><td>Atorvastatin_Tab 80mg</td><td>0212000B0AADAD</td></tr> <tr><td>Fluvastatin_Sod_Cap 20mg</td><td>0212000M0AAAAAA</td></tr> <tr><td>Fluvastatin_Sod_Cap 40mg</td><td>0212000M0AAABAB</td></tr> <tr><td>Pravastatin_Sod_Tab 10mg</td><td>0212000X0AAAAAA</td></tr> <tr><td>Pravastatin_Sod_Tab 20mg</td><td>0212000X0AAABAB</td></tr> <tr><td>Pravastatin_Sod_Tab 40mg</td><td>0212000X0AADAD</td></tr> <tr><td>Simvastatin_Tab 10mg</td><td>0212000Y0AAAAAA</td></tr> <tr><td>Simvastatin_Tab 20mg</td><td>0212000Y0AAABAB</td></tr> <tr><td>Simvastatin_Tab 40mg</td><td>0212000Y0AADAD</td></tr> <tr><td>Simvastatin_Tab 80mg</td><td>0212000Y0AAHAH</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Atorvastatin_Tab 10mg	0212000B0AAAAAA	Atorvastatin_Tab 20mg	0212000B0AAABAB	Atorvastatin_Tab 40mg	0212000B0AAACAC	Atorvastatin_Tab 80mg	0212000B0AADAD	Fluvastatin_Sod_Cap 20mg	0212000M0AAAAAA	Fluvastatin_Sod_Cap 40mg	0212000M0AAABAB	Pravastatin_Sod_Tab 10mg	0212000X0AAAAAA	Pravastatin_Sod_Tab 20mg	0212000X0AAABAB	Pravastatin_Sod_Tab 40mg	0212000X0AADAD	Simvastatin_Tab 10mg	0212000Y0AAAAAA	Simvastatin_Tab 20mg	0212000Y0AAABAB	Simvastatin_Tab 40mg	0212000Y0AADAD	Simvastatin_Tab 80mg	0212000Y0AAHAH
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Comparator	Lipid modifying drugs: Ezetimibe % items	
Comparator Description	Number of items for ezetimibe and ezetimibe/simvastatin combinations as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all statins, plus the total number of prescription items for combination of simvastatin/ezetimibe, plus total number of prescription items for ezetimibe alone.	
Numerator	Number of prescription items for ezetimibe including combination of simvastatin / ezetimibe	
	BNF Name	BNF Code
	Ezetimibe	0212000L0
	Simvastatin & Ezetimibe	0212000AC
Denominator	Number of prescription items for all statins, including combination of simvastatin / ezetimibe, and ezetimibe (sub-set of BNF 2.12).	
	BNF Name	BNF Code
	Atorvastatin	0212000B0
	Cerivastatin	0212000C0
	Ezetimibe	0212000L0
	Fluvastatin Sodium	0212000M0
	Lovastatin	0212000R0
	Pravastatin Sodium	0212000X0
	Rosuvastatin Calcium	0212000AA
	Simvastatin	0212000Y0
	Simvastatin & Ezetimibe	0212000AC

Omega-3 fatty acid supplements (new comparator for 2013/14)

Comparator	Omega-3 ADQ/STAR PU																																	
Comparator Description	Number of ADQs for omega-3 fatty acid compounds per Omega-3 fatty acid compounds (BNF 2.12 sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PU.																																	
Numerator	<p>Total average daily quantity (ADQ) usage for Omega-3 fatty acid compounds (BNF 2.12 sub-set)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Omega-3 Marine Triglycerides</td> <td>0212000V0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Omega-3-Acid Ethyl Esters</td> <td>0212000AB</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Average Daily Quantity values: Omega-3 Marine Triglycerides ADQ = 10g Omega-3-Acid Ethyl Esters ADQ = 1g</p>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Omega-3 Marine Triglycerides	0212000V0	Omega-3-Acid Ethyl Esters	0212000AB																											
BNF Name	BNF Code																																	
Omega-3 Marine Triglycerides	0212000V0																																	
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Denominator	<p>Total number of Omega-3 fatty acid compounds (BNF 2.12 sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PUs</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Omega-3 fatty acid compounds (BNF 2.12 sub-set) ADQ based STAR- PU (2013 weighting)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Age Range</th> <th>Male Weighting</th> <th>Female Weighting</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0 to 4</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 to 14</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 to 24</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25 to 34</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35 to 44</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>45 to 54</td> <td>0.6</td> <td>0.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>55 to 64</td> <td>1.3</td> <td>0.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65 to 74</td> <td>1.3</td> <td>0.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>75+</td> <td>1.1</td> <td>0.4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Omega-3 fatty acid compounds (BNF 2.12 sub-set) ADQ based STAR- PU (2013 weighting)			Age Range	Male Weighting	Female Weighting	0 to 4	0.0	0.0	5 to 14	0.0	0.0	15 to 24	0.0	0.0	25 to 34	0.0	0.0	35 to 44	0.1	0.0	45 to 54	0.6	0.2	55 to 64	1.3	0.3	65 to 74	1.3	0.6	75+	1.1	0.4
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Comments	Introduced in August 2013 (Q1 2013/14 data release) to support a new key therapeutic topic and backdated for the previous 5 quarters (from Q3 2013/14 available February 2014).																																	

Hypnotics

Comparator	Hypnotics ADQ/STAR PU (ADQ based)																																	
Comparator Description	<p>Number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for benzodiazepines (indicated for use as hypnotics) and “Z” drugs per Hypnotics (BNF 4.1.1 sub-set) per Hypnotics (BNF 4.1.1 sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PU.</p> <p>NB: Revised in August 2013 (Q1 2013/14 data release). See appendix 2 for further details of amendment.</p>																																	
Numerator	<p>Total average daily quantity (ADQ) usage for benzodiazepines and “Z” drugs (zolpidem, zopiclone and zaleplon) in BNF 4.1.1</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">BNF Name</th> <th style="background-color: #e0f2f1;">BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Flunitrazepam</td><td>0401010I0</td></tr> <tr><td>Flurazepam Hydrochloride</td><td>0401010L0</td></tr> <tr><td>Loprazolam Mesilate</td><td>0401010N0</td></tr> <tr><td>Lormetazepam</td><td>0401010P0</td></tr> <tr><td>Nitrazepam</td><td>0401010R0</td></tr> <tr><td>Temazepam</td><td>0401010T0</td></tr> <tr><td>Triazolam</td><td>0401010V0</td></tr> <tr><td>Zaleplon</td><td>0401010W0</td></tr> <tr><td>Zolpidem Tartrate</td><td>0401010Y0</td></tr> <tr><td>Zopiclone</td><td>0401010Z0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Flunitrazepam	0401010I0	Flurazepam Hydrochloride	0401010L0	Loprazolam Mesilate	0401010N0	Lormetazepam	0401010P0	Nitrazepam	0401010R0	Temazepam	0401010T0	Triazolam	0401010V0	Zaleplon	0401010W0	Zolpidem Tartrate	0401010Y0	Zopiclone	0401010Z0											
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Comments	<p>Introduced from Q1 2013/14 onwards and backdated for the previous 5 quarters (from Q3 2013/14 data release available February 2014). The previous comparator (Hypnotics ADQ/STAR PU (COST based)) will continue to be available up to and including Q4 2013/14 data.</p> <p>See appendix 2 for further detail of amendments.</p>
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First choice antidepressant use in adults with depression or anxiety disorder

Comparator	Antidepressants (selected): ADQ/STAR PU (ADQ based)																																	
Comparator Description	<p>Number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for selected antidepressant prescribing per Antidepressants (BNF 4.3 sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PU</p> <p>NB: Revised in August 2013 (Q1 2013/14 data release). See appendix 2 for further details of amendment.</p>																																	
Numerator	<p>Total average daily quantities (ADQ) usage for selected antidepressants (BNF 4.3 sub-set)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Antidepressant Drugs</td> <td>0403</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>excluding:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Amitriptyline Hydrochloride</td> <td>0403010B0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clomipramine Hydrochloride</td> <td>0403010F0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Imipramine Hydrochloride</td> <td>0403010N0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nortriptyline</td> <td>0403010V0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trimipramine</td> <td>0403010Y0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monoamine-Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)</td> <td>040302</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flupentixol Hydrochloride</td> <td>0403040F0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Antidepressant Drugs	0403	BNF Name	BNF Code	Amitriptyline Hydrochloride	0403010B0	Clomipramine Hydrochloride	0403010F0	Imipramine Hydrochloride	0403010N0	Nortriptyline	0403010V0	Trimipramine	0403010Y0	Monoamine-Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)	040302	Flupentixol Hydrochloride	0403040F0													
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Denominator	<p>Number of Antidepressant (BNF 4.3 sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PUs</p> <p>NB: See numerator for details of BNF 4.3 sub-set.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Antidepressant (BNF 4.3 sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PU (2013 weighting)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Age Range</th> <th>Male Weighting</th> <th>Female Weighting</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0 to 4</td> <td>0.0</td> <td>0.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 to 14</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 to 24</td> <td>4.7</td> <td>11.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25 to 34</td> <td>12.9</td> <td>27.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35 to 44</td> <td>19.8</td> <td>42.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>45 to 54</td> <td>22.7</td> <td>49.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>55 to 64</td> <td>23.7</td> <td>44.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65 to 74</td> <td>18.1</td> <td>35.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>75+</td> <td>18.7</td> <td>33.4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Antidepressant (BNF 4.3 sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PU (2013 weighting)			Age Range	Male Weighting	Female Weighting	0 to 4	0.0	0.0	5 to 14	0.1	0.1	15 to 24	4.7	11.4	25 to 34	12.9	27.1	35 to 44	19.8	42.6	45 to 54	22.7	49.8	55 to 64	23.7	44.9	65 to 74	18.1	35.4	75+	18.7	33.4
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Comment	<p>Revised comparator introduced from Q1 2013/14 data and backdated for the previous 5 quarters (from Q3 2013/14 available February 2014). The previous comparator continues to be available via the Information Services Portal as a volume comparator (Antidepressants ADQ/STAR PU).</p> <p>See appendix 2 for further detail of amendment.</p>
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Comparator	Antidepressants: First choice % items																				
Comparator Description	Number of prescription items for “1 st choice” generic SSRIs as a percentage of total number of prescription items for selected “other antidepressants”																				
Numerator	<p>Number of prescription items for “1st choice” SSRIs: citalopram hydrobromide, fluoxetine and sertraline prescribed by approved (generic) name</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Citalopram Hydrob</td> <td>0403030D0AA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fluoxetine HCl</td> <td>0403030E0AA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sertraline HCl</td> <td>0403030Q0AA</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Citalopram Hydrob	0403030D0AA	Fluoxetine HCl	0403030E0AA	Sertraline HCl	0403030Q0AA												
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Denominator	<p>Number of prescription items for selected antidepressants (sub-set of BNF 4.3)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Antidepressant Drugs</td> <td>0403</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>excluding:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Amitriptyline Hydrochloride*</td> <td>0403010B0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clomipramine Hydrochloride*</td> <td>0403010F0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Imipramine Hydrochloride*</td> <td>0403010N0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nortriptyline*</td> <td>0403010V0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trimipramine*</td> <td>0403010Y0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monoamine-Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)**</td> <td>040302</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flupentixol Hydrochloride ***</td> <td>0403040F0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Antidepressant Drugs	0403	BNF Name	BNF Code	Amitriptyline Hydrochloride*	0403010B0	Clomipramine Hydrochloride*	0403010F0	Imipramine Hydrochloride*	0403010N0	Nortriptyline*	0403010V0	Trimipramine*	0403010Y0	Monoamine-Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)**	040302	Flupentixol Hydrochloride ***	0403040F0
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Comments	<p>*Excludes selected Tricyclic and related antidepressants (BNF 4.3.1) where there are significant levels of prescribing (70% or more) for other indications other than depression.</p> <p>** Specialist drug</p> <p>*** Excluded as primarily used in psychoses</p>																				

Antibiotic prescribing - especially quinolones and cephalosporins

Comparator	Antibacterial items/STAR PU																																	
Comparator Description	Number of prescription items for antibacterial drugs (BNF 5.1) per Oral antibacterials (BNF 5.1 sub-set) ITEM based STAR-PU.																																	
Numerator	Total number of items for Antibacterial drugs (BNF 5.1) <table border="1"> <tr> <td>BNF Name</td> <td>BNF Code</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Antibacterial Drugs</td> <td>0501</td> </tr> </table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Antibacterial Drugs	0501																													
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Comments	<p>ITEM based STAR PU values specific to the numerator are not available. Oral antibacterials (BNF 5.1 sub-set) ITEM based STAR-PU values have been used as the denominator since items for <u>non-oral</u> antibacterials accounted for only 0.18% of all items for BNF 5.1 in 2012/13 (Source: ePACT).</p> <p>Revised 2013 weightings to be used from Q3 2013/14 data release (available February 2014). NB: Within the Portal there will be the facility to switch between 2009 and 2013 STAR PUs.</p>																																	

Comparator	Cephalosporins & Quinolones % items	
Comparator Description	Number of prescription items for cephalosporins and quinolones as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for selected antibacterial drugs (sub-set of BNF 5.1)	
Numerator	Number of prescription items for BNF 5.1.2.1 (cephalosporins) and BNF 5.1.12 (quinolones)	
	BNF Name	BNF Code
	Cephalosporins	0501021
	Quinolones	050112
Denominator	Number of prescription items for BNF 5.1.1; 5.1.2.1; 5.1.3; 5.1.5; 5.1.8; 5.1.11; 5.1.12; 5.1.13	
	BNF Name	BNF Code
	Cephalosporins	0501021
	Macrolides	050105
	Metronidazole, Tinidazole & Ornidazole	050111
	Penicillins	050101
	Quinolones	050112
	Sulphonamides And Trimethoprim	050108
	Tetracyclines	050103
	Urinary-Tract Infections	050113
Comments	<u>Numerator</u> Prescribing of injectables within numerator has negligible impact on comparator (0.23% of items for cephalosporins and 0.0016% of items for quinolones in 2012/13). Therefore no attempt to exclude from numerator. Zero items for Cephalosporins and other Beta-Lactams (ePACT BNF 0501020) in 2012/13 and therefore excluded from numerator.	
	<u>Denominator</u> Denominator attempts to exclude the following antibiotics that do not provide a suitable alternative to quinolones and cephalosporins or are specialist antibiotics	
	BNF Name	BNF Code
	Carbapenems	0501022
	Other Beta-Lactam antibiotics	0501023
	Aminoglycosides	050104
	Clindamycin and Lincomycin	050106
	Some Other Antibiotics	050107
	Antituberculosis Drugs	050109
	Antileprotic Drugs	050110
	NB: Above paragraphs/sub-paragraphs excluded from denominator account for 0.55% of all items prescribed for BNF 5.1 during 2012/13 (Source: ePACT).	

Three-day courses of trimethoprim for uncomplicated urinary tract infection

Comparator	3 days trimethoprim ADQ/item	
Comparator Description	Number of average daily quantities (ADQs) per item for trimethoprim 200mg tablets	
Numerator	Total average daily quantity (ADQ) usage for trimethoprim 200mg tablets	
	BNF Name	BNF Code
	Trimethoprim_Tab 200mg	0501080W0AAAEAE
Denominator	Number of prescription items for trimethoprim 200mg tablets	
	BNF Name	BNF Code
	Trimethoprim_Tab 200mg	0501080W0AAAEAE
Comments	<p>An ADQ value of 3 equates to a 3 day course of trimethoprim 200mg b.d. i.e. 6 x 200mg tablets. The ADQ for trimethoprim is 400mg</p> <p>The aim of the comparator is to support local discussion. In accordance with guidance, some prescribing for trimethoprim may need to be for longer than 3 days e.g. elderly, males, complicated UTI. Therefore a comparator value of, or near to, 3.0 would not be appropriate.</p> <p>Both the numerator and denominator includes prescribing of trimethoprim by approved (generic) name. There is currently negligible prescribing of branded trimethoprim 200mg (5 items between April 2012 and September 2013). Regular monitoring will continue needed to ensure this trend continues or a new brand of trimethoprim has not been introduced.</p>	

Minocycline

Comparator	Minocycline ADQ/1000 patients	
Comparator Description	Total number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for minocycline per 1000 patients	
Numerator	Total average daily quantity (ADQ) usage for minocycline	
	BNF Name	BNF Code
	Minocycline Hydrochloride	0501030P0
Denominator	Total number of patients (divided by 1000)	
Comments	Current comparator introduced in May 2012, replacing 'Total number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for minocycline per Oral antibacterial ITEM based STAR-PU' introduced in Feb 2012.	

Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Comparator	Hypoglycaemic agents	
Comparator Description	Number of prescription items for metformin and sulfonylureas as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all Antidiabetic drugs (BNF 6.1.2).	
Numerator	Number of prescription items for BNF section 6.1.2.1 and BNF section 6.1.2.2	
	BNF Name	BNF Code
	Biguanides	0601022
	Sulfonylureas	0601021
Denominator	Number of prescription items for BNF section 6.1.2 (Antidiabetic drugs)	
	BNF Name	BNF Code
	Antidiabetic Drugs	060102

Comparator	Long-acting insulin analogues																					
Comparator Description	<p>Number of prescription items for long-acting human analogue insulins as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all long-acting and intermediate acting insulins excluding biphasic insulins.</p> <p>NB: Revised from Q1 2013/14. See appendix 2 for further details of amendment.</p>																					
Numerator	<p>Number of prescription items for long-acting insulin analogues (sub-set of BNF section 6.1.1.2)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Insulin Degludec</td> <td>0601012Z0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insulin Detemir</td> <td>0601012X0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insulin Glargine</td> <td>0601012V0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		BNF Name	BNF Code	Insulin Degludec	0601012Z0	Insulin Detemir	0601012X0	Insulin Glargine	0601012V0												
BNF Name	BNF Code																					
Insulin Degludec	0601012Z0																					
Insulin Detemir	0601012X0																					
Insulin Glargine	0601012V0																					
Denominator	<p>Number of prescription items for all long acting and intermediate acting insulins <u>excluding</u>* biphasic insulins (sub-set of BNF section 6.1.1.2).</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Insulin Degludec</td> <td>0601012Z0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insulin Detemir</td> <td>0601012X0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insulin Glargine</td> <td>0601012V0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insulin Zinc Suspension</td> <td>0601012G0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insulin Zinc Suspension (Amorphous)</td> <td>0601012L0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insulin Zinc Suspension (Crystalline)</td> <td>0601012N0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Isophane Insulin</td> <td>0601012S0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Intermed&Long-Acting Insulin Preps</td> <td>060101200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Protamine Zinc Insulin</td> <td>0601012U0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		BNF Name	BNF Code	Insulin Degludec	0601012Z0	Insulin Detemir	0601012X0	Insulin Glargine	0601012V0	Insulin Zinc Suspension	0601012G0	Insulin Zinc Suspension (Amorphous)	0601012L0	Insulin Zinc Suspension (Crystalline)	0601012N0	Isophane Insulin	0601012S0	Other Intermed&Long-Acting Insulin Preps	060101200	Protamine Zinc Insulin	0601012U0
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Comments	<p>* Denominator <u>excludes</u> following:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Biphasic Insulin Injection</td> <td>0601012C0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Biphasic Insulin Lispro</td> <td>0601012F0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Biphasic Isophane Insulin</td> <td>0601012D0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Biphasic Protamine Insulin</td> <td>0601012W0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		BNF Name	BNF Code	Biphasic Insulin Injection	0601012C0	Biphasic Insulin Lispro	0601012F0	Biphasic Isophane Insulin	0601012D0	Biphasic Protamine Insulin	0601012W0										
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Biphasic Protamine Insulin	0601012W0																					

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)

Comparator	NSAIDs: ibuprofen & naproxen % items	
Comparator Description	Number of prescription items for ibuprofen and naproxen as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all NSAIDs.	
Numerator	Number of prescription items for ibuprofen and naproxen (sub-set of BNF section 10.1.1)	
	BNF Name	BNF Code
	Ibuprofen	1001010J0
	Ibuprofen Lysine	1001010AD
	Naproxen	1001010P0
	Naproxen Sodium	100101070
Denominator	Number of prescription items for BNF section 10.1.1 (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs)	
	BNF Name	BNF Code
	Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs	100101

Comparator	NSAIDs ADQ/STAR PU		
Comparator Description	Number of average daily quantities (ADQs) per Oral NSAIDs (BNF 10.1.1 sub-set) COST based STAR-PU		
Numerator	Total average daily quantity (ADQ) usage for Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (BNF 10.1.1)		
	BNF Name	BNF Code	
	Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs	100101	
Denominator	Total number of Oral NSAID (BNF 10.1.1 sub-set) COST based STAR-PUs		
	Oral NSAIDs BNF 10.1.1 sub-set) COST based STAR-PUs (2009 weighting)		
	Age Range	Male Weighting	Female Weighting
	0 to 4	0.2	0.2
	5 to 14	0.1	0.2
	15 to 24	0.2	0.5
	25 to 34	0.5	0.8
	35 to 44	1.2	1.6
	45 to 54	2.0	2.9
	55 to 64	3.7	5.2
65 to 74	5.0	6.3	
75+	4.0	4.6	
Comments	<p>Over 99% of items are covered by ADQ values (Source: EPACT).</p> <p>STAR-PU values used are for oral NSAIDs only. Denominator includes all presentations of NSAIDs included in BNF 10.1.1. However non-oral NSAIDS (suppositories, injections) in BNF 10.1.1 accounted for only 0.30% of ADQ usage in 2012/13 and therefore has negligible impact on comparator values (Source: ePACT).</p> <p>NB: Topical NSAID preparations are included in BNF 10.3.2</p> <p>Revised 2013 weightings to be used from Q3 2013/14 data release (available February 2014). NB: Within the Portal there will be the facility to switch between 2009 and 2013 STAR PUs.</p>		

Wound care products

Comparator	Wound care products: NIC/item	
Comparator Description	Cost (NIC) per item for wound care products.	
Numerator	Cost (NIC) for wound management and other dressings (ePACT code 2003)	
	BNF Name	BNF Code (ePACT)
	Wound Management & other Dressings	2003
Denominator	Number of prescription items for wound management and other dressings (ePACT code 2003)	
	BNF Name	BNF Code (ePACT)
	Wound Management & other Dressings	2003
Comments	Use of NIC/item aims to address the cost of dressing choices and/or excessive quantities on prescriptions.	
	Comparator to be reviewed post NHS reforms with consideration to the options implemented locally for community nurse prescribing cost centres.	

Summary of retired comparators

A summary of retired QIPP prescribing comparators is provided in the following table. Withdrawal of the comparators was made following feedback received from NHS and industry partners in January 2012.

Key therapeutic topic	Comparator	Comparator description	Comments
Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs)	Low cost PPIs % items	Number of prescription items for “low cost” PPI preparations (omeprazole, lansoprazole and pantoprazole) as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all PPIs.	<p>Introduced March 2011. Retired February 2012 and reported up to and including Q4 2011/12 data.</p> <p>Prescribing of low cost PPIs high across all PCTs and variation has significantly reduced. Esomeprazole now off-patent and cost likely to fall over time. Retired from Key Therapeutics Topics from February 2012 (version 4 onwards).</p>
Clopidogrel	Clopidogrel generic prescribing rate	Generic prescribing rate for clopidogrel	<p>Introduced March 2011. Retired February 2012 and reported up to and including Q4 2011/12 data.</p> <p>Prescribing of clopidogrel by approved name high across all PCTs and variation significantly reduced. Retired from Key Therapeutics Topics from February 2012 (version 4 onwards).</p>
Alendronate	Alendronate generic prescribing rate	Generic prescribing rate for alendronic acid (sodium alendronate)	Introduced March 2011. Retired February 2012 and reported up to and including Q4 2011/12 data.
	Alendronate as % of all bisphosphonates	Number of prescription items for alendronic acid (sodium alendronate) as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all bisphosphonates and other drugs affecting bone metabolism (BNF 6.6.2)	Prescribing of alendronate by approved name high across all PCTs and variation significantly reduced. Risedronate is now off-patent. Retired from Key Therapeutics Topics from February 2012 (version 4 onwards).

Appendix 1: Glossary

Average Daily Quantities (ADQs)	<p>Average Daily Quantity (ADQ) is a measure of prescribing volume based upon prescribing behaviour in England. It represents the assumed average maintenance dose per day for a drug used for its main indication in adults. The ADQ is not a recommended dose but an analytical unit to compare prescribing activity. See links below for further detail.</p> <p>http://www.hscic.gov.uk/media/10027/Prescribing-measures-booklet/pdf/pres-meas-book-v7.pdf</p> <p>http://www.hscic.gov.uk/media/9376/Average-daily-quantity-ADQ-values-2012-13/pdf/adqs_2012_13.pdf</p>
Denominator	<p>The denominator is what the numerator (see below) is being measured or compared against. The QIPP comparators use prescription items and STAR-PU's as denominators.</p> <p>NB: The mathematical definition is "the number in a fraction that lies <i>below</i> the divide line. The number that lies <i>above</i> the divide line is the numerator".</p>
Generic prescribing	<p>Refers to prescribing using the approved name of a medicine. The generic name of a medicine can also be referred to as recommended international non-proprietary name (rINN), non-branded or non-proprietary name. In the majority of instances prescribing by generic name will result in a generic version of the medicine being supplied rather than a branded version of the same medicine.</p>
Numerator	<p>The numerator is what is being measured or compared. The QIPP comparators use prescription items or ADQs as numerators.</p> <p>NB: The mathematical definition is "the number in a fraction that lies <i>above</i> the divide line. The number that lies <i>below</i> the divide line is the denominator".</p>
Prescription item	<p>"Prescription item" is a measure of the frequency of prescribing. A prescription item refers to a single medicine which may be prescribed along with other medicines on the same prescription form i.e. a measure of number of medicines and not number of prescription forms (which may include more than 1 medicine). A prescription item does not provide information on the quantity prescribed or duration of treatment e.g. an item maybe for 1, 2 or 3 months treatment.</p>

STAR-PU

Specific Therapeutic group Age-sex weightings Related Prescribing Units (STAR-PU) are designed to measure prescribing weighted for age and sex of patients. There are differences in the age and sex of patients for who drugs in specific therapeutic groups are usually prescribed. To make such comparisons STAR-PU have been developed based on costs of prescribing, items or ADQs within therapeutic groups. See link for further detail:
<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/prescribing/measures>

Appendix 2: Amendments to QIPP Prescribing Comparators – August 2013

Comparator: Low cost lipid lowering drugs

	Comparator (up to Q4 2012/13)	Changes from Q1 2013/14 data																																		
Comparator	Low cost lipid modifying drugs	Title unchanged																																		
Comparator description	Number of prescription items for simvastatin and pravastatin as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all statins, plus the total number of prescription items for combination of simvastatin/ ezetimibe, plus total number of prescription items for ezetimibe alone.	Number of prescription items for generic statin preparations listed under category M in part VIII of the Drug Tariff as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all statins, plus the total number of prescription items for combination of simvastatin/ ezetimibe, plus total number of prescription items for ezetimibe alone.																																		
Numerator	Number of prescription items for simvastatin and pravastatin (sub-set of BNF 2.12) <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pravastatin Sodium</td> <td>0212000X0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Simvastatin</td> <td>0212000Y0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Pravastatin Sodium	0212000X0	Simvastatin	0212000Y0	Number of prescription items for generic statin preparations listed under category M in part VIII of the Drug Tariff (sub-set of BNF 2.12) <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Atorvastatin_Tab 10mg</td> <td>0212000B0AAAAAA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Atorvastatin_Tab 20mg</td> <td>0212000B0AAABAB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Atorvastatin_Tab 40mg</td> <td>0212000B0AAACAC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Atorvastatin_Tab 80mg</td> <td>0212000B0AADAD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fluvastatin Sod_Cap 20mg</td> <td>0212000M0AAAAAA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fluvastatin Sod_Cap 40mg</td> <td>0212000M0AAABAB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pravastatin Sod_Tab 10mg</td> <td>0212000X0AAAAAA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pravastatin Sod_Tab 20mg</td> <td>0212000X0AAABAB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pravastatin Sod_Tab 40mg</td> <td>0212000X0AADAD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Simvastatin_Tab 10mg</td> <td>0212000Y0AAAAAA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Simvastatin_Tab 20mg</td> <td>0212000Y0AAABAB</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Simvastatin_Tab 40mg</td> <td>0212000Y0AADAD</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Simvastatin_Tab 80mg</td> <td>0212000Y0AAHAH</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Atorvastatin_Tab 10mg	0212000B0AAAAAA	Atorvastatin_Tab 20mg	0212000B0AAABAB	Atorvastatin_Tab 40mg	0212000B0AAACAC	Atorvastatin_Tab 80mg	0212000B0AADAD	Fluvastatin Sod_Cap 20mg	0212000M0AAAAAA	Fluvastatin Sod_Cap 40mg	0212000M0AAABAB	Pravastatin Sod_Tab 10mg	0212000X0AAAAAA	Pravastatin Sod_Tab 20mg	0212000X0AAABAB	Pravastatin Sod_Tab 40mg	0212000X0AADAD	Simvastatin_Tab 10mg	0212000Y0AAAAAA	Simvastatin_Tab 20mg	0212000Y0AAABAB	Simvastatin_Tab 40mg	0212000Y0AADAD	Simvastatin_Tab 80mg	0212000Y0AAHAH
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Simvastatin_Tab 80mg	0212000Y0AAHAH																																			

Denominator	Number of prescription items for all statins, including combination of simvastatin / ezetimibe, and ezetimibe (sub-set of BNF 2.12).	Denominator unchanged (see left)
	BNF Name	BNF Code
	Atorvastatin	0212000B0
	Cerivastatin	0212000C0
	Ezetimibe	0212000L0
	Fluvastatin Sodium	0212000M0
	Lovastatin	0212000R0
	Pravastatin Sodium	0212000X0
	Rosuvastatin Calcium	0212000AA
Simvastatin	0212000Y0	
Simvastatin & Ezetimibe	0212000AC	
Comments	The revised comparator was introduced from Q1 2013/14 data as a continuation from the previous to the revised comparator. i.e. data for the quarters prior to Q1 2013/14 is for the previous comparator. This may have resulted in a marked shift in values.	

Comparator: Hypnotic ADQ/STAR-PU (ADQ based)

	Comparator (up to Q4 2012/13)	Changes from Q1 2013/14																						
Comparator	Hypnotics ADQ/STAR-PU (NB: to be changed to Hypnotics ADQ/STAR PU (COST based))	Hypnotic ADQ/STAR PU (ADQ based)																						
Comparator description	Total number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for benzodiazepines (indicated for use as hypnotics) and "Z" drugs per STAR-PU.	Number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for benzodiazepines (indicated for use as hypnotics) and "Z" drugs per Hypnotics (BNF 4.1.1 sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PU																						
Numerator	Total average daily quantity (ADQ) usage for benzodiazepines and "Z" drugs (zolpidem, zopiclone and zaleplon) in BNF 4.1.1 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Flunitrazepam</td> <td>0401010I0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flurazepam Hydrochloride</td> <td>0401010L0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Loprazolam Mesilate</td> <td>0401010N0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lormetazepam</td> <td>0401010P0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nitrazepam</td> <td>0401010R0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Temazepam</td> <td>0401010T0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Triazolam</td> <td>0401010V0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Zaleplon</td> <td>0401010W0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Zolpidem Tartrate</td> <td>0401010Y0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Zopiclone</td> <td>0401010Z0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Flunitrazepam	0401010I0	Flurazepam Hydrochloride	0401010L0	Loprazolam Mesilate	0401010N0	Lormetazepam	0401010P0	Nitrazepam	0401010R0	Temazepam	0401010T0	Triazolam	0401010V0	Zaleplon	0401010W0	Zolpidem Tartrate	0401010Y0	Zopiclone	0401010Z0	Numerator unchanged (see left)
BNF Name	BNF Code																							
Flunitrazepam	0401010I0																							
Flurazepam Hydrochloride	0401010L0																							
Loprazolam Mesilate	0401010N0																							
Lormetazepam	0401010P0																							
Nitrazepam	0401010R0																							
Temazepam	0401010T0																							
Triazolam	0401010V0																							
Zaleplon	0401010W0																							
Zolpidem Tartrate	0401010Y0																							
Zopiclone	0401010Z0																							

Denominator	Number of cost-based "Hypnotic" STAR-PUs			Total number of Hypnotics (BNF 4.1.1 sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PU.		
	Cost-based QIPP hypnotics STAR-PU* (2009 weighting)			Hypnotics (BNF 4.1.1 QIPP sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PU (2013 weighting)		
	Age Range	Male Weighting	Female Weighting	Age Range	Male Weighting	Female Weighting
	0 to 4	0.0	0.0	0 to 4	0.0	0.0
	5 to 14	0.0	0.0	5 to 14	0.0	0.0
	15 to 24	0.1	0.1	15 to 24	0.1	0.2
	25 to 34	0.3	0.3	25 to 34	0.6	0.9
	35 to 44	0.4	0.5	35 to 44	1.6	1.9
	45 to 54	0.5	0.8	45 to 54	2.4	3.6
	55 to 64	0.8	1.5	55 to 64	3.0	5.0
	65 to 74	1.3	2.4	65 to 74	4.4	7.6
	75+	2.3	3.8	75+	6.7	11.9
	<p>STAR-PU values for numerator are not available and therefore "QIPP hypnotics" STAR-PU used which is a copy of benzodiazepine receptors STAR-PU. STAR-PU values are based on all benzodiazepine and "Z" drugs acting on benzodiazepine receptors i.e. includes benzodiazepine's indicated for use as anxiolytics (sub-set of BNF 4.1.2).</p>			<p>ADQ based STAR-PUs developed specifically for drugs included in numerator set.</p>		
Comments	<p>Comparator will continue to be available up to and including Q4 2013/14 data.</p>			<p>Introduced in August (Q1 2013/14 data release) and backdated for the previous 5 quarters from Q3 2013/14 data release (available February 2014).</p>		

Comparator: Antidepressant (selected): ADQ/STAR-PU (ADQ based)

	Comparator (up to Q4 2012/13)	Changes from Q1 2013/14																								
Comparator	Antidepressants: ADQ/STAR PU	Antidepressants (selected): ADQ/STAR PU (ADQ based)																								
Comparator description	Total number of average daily quantities (ADQs) per STAR-PU for all antidepressant prescribing	Number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for selected antidepressant prescribing per Antidepressants (BNF 4.3 sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PU																								
Numerator	<p>Total average daily quantity (ADQ) usage for antidepressants (BNF 4.3)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Antidepressant Drugs</td> <td>0403</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Antidepressant Drugs	0403	<p>Total number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for selected antidepressants (BNF 4.3 sub-set)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Antidepressant Drugs</td> <td>0403</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>excluding:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Amitriptyline Hydrochloride</td> <td>0403010B0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clomipramine Hydrochloride</td> <td>0403010F0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Imipramine Hydrochloride</td> <td>0403010N0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nortriptyline</td> <td>0403010V0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trimipramine</td> <td>0403010Y0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monoamine-Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)</td> <td>040302</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flupentixol Hydrochloride</td> <td>0403040F0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>NB: This numerator is the same as the denominator used in the 'Antidepressants: % first choice items' comparator</p>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Antidepressant Drugs	0403	BNF Name	BNF Code	Amitriptyline Hydrochloride	0403010B0	Clomipramine Hydrochloride	0403010F0	Imipramine Hydrochloride	0403010N0	Nortriptyline	0403010V0	Trimipramine	0403010Y0	Monoamine-Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)	040302	Flupentixol Hydrochloride	0403040F0
BNF Name	BNF Code																									
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Clomipramine Hydrochloride	0403010F0																									
Imipramine Hydrochloride	0403010N0																									
Nortriptyline	0403010V0																									
Trimipramine	0403010Y0																									
Monoamine-Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)	040302																									
Flupentixol Hydrochloride	0403040F0																									

Denominator	Number of cost-based antidepressant (BNF 4.3) STAR-PUs	Number of Antidepressant (BNF 4.3 sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PUs NB: See numerator for details of BNF 4.3 sub-set.				
	Cost-based antidepressant STAR-PU (2009 weighting)			Antidepressant (BNF 4.3 sub-set) ADQ based STAR-PU (2013 weighting)		
	Age Range	Male Weighting	Female Weighting	Age Range	Male Weighting	Female Weighting
	0 to 4	0.0	0.0	0 to 4	0.0	0.0
	5 to 14	0.0	0.0	5 to 14	0.1	0.1
	15 to 24	0.6	1.3	15 to 24	4.7	11.4
	25 to 34	2.2	4.4	25 to 34	12.9	27.1
	35 to 44	4.1	8.0	35 to 44	19.8	42.6
	45 to 54	4.7	9.8	45 to 54	22.7	49.8
	55 to 64	5.4	9.1	55 to 64	23.7	44.9
	65 to 74	4.5	8.0	65 to 74	18.1	35.4
	75+	5.4	10.2	75+	18.7	33.4
				ADQ based STAR-PUs developed specifically for drugs included in numerator set (sub-set of BNF 4.3)		
Comments	Comparator is available via the Information Services Portal as a volume comparator (Antidepressants ADQ/STAR PU).	Introduced in August 2013 (Q1 2013/14 data release) and backdated for the previous 5 quarters from Q3 2013/14 data release (available February 2014).				

Comparator: Long- acting insulin analogues

	Comparator (up to Q4 2012/13)	Changes from Q1 2013/14														
Comparator	Long/intermediate insulin analogues	Title changed to 'Long acting insulin analogues'														
Comparator description	Number of prescription items for long acting human analogue insulins detemir and glargine as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all long acting and intermediate acting insulins excluding biphasic insulins.	Number of prescription items for long acting human analogue insulins as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all long acting and intermediate acting insulins excluding biphasic insulins.														
Numerator	<p>Number of prescription items for insulin detemir and insulin glargine (sub-set of BNF section 6.1.1.2)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Insulin Detemir</td> <td>0601012X0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insulin Glargine</td> <td>0601012V0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Insulin Detemir	0601012X0	Insulin Glargine	0601012V0	<p>Number of prescription items for long-acting insulin analogues (sub-set of BNF section 6.1.1.2)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th> <th>BNF Code</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Insulin Degludec</td> <td>0601012Z0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insulin Detemir</td> <td>0601012X0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Insulin Glargine</td> <td>0601012V0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Insulin Degludec	0601012Z0	Insulin Detemir	0601012X0	Insulin Glargine	0601012V0
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BNF Name	BNF Code															
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Insulin Detemir	0601012X0															
Insulin Glargine	0601012V0															

Denominator	Number of prescription items for all long acting and intermediate acting insulins <u>excluding</u> biphasic insulins (sub-set of BNF section 6.1.1.2).	Denominator (see left) unchanged except for the addition of the following:	
	BNF Name	BNF Code	BNF Name
	Insulin Detemir	0601012X0	Insulin Degludec
	Insulin Glargine	0601012V0	0601012Z0
	Insulin Zinc Suspension	0601012G0	
	Insulin Zinc Suspension (Amorphous)	0601012L0	
	Insulin Zinc Suspension (Crystalline)	0601012N0	
	Isophane Insulin	0601012S0	
	Other Intermed&Long-Acting Insulin	060101200	
Protamine Zinc Insulin	0601012U0		
Comments	The revised comparator was introduced from Q1 2013/14 data onwards as a smooth transition from the previous to the revised comparator. This is unlikely to have resulted in any noticeable change in values due to the amendment as the volume of prescribing degludec is negligible.		