

Top 10 drugs

Aust Prescr 2016;39:220
<http://dx.doi.org/10.18773/austprescr.2016.090>

Tables 1–3 show the top 10 subsidised drugs for the year July 2015 – June 2016. The figures are based on PBS and RPBS prescriptions from the date of supply, and do not include private prescriptions or prescriptions under the co-payment.

This year's tables are notable for the arrival of the drugs which aim to eradicate hepatitis C. Table 3 shows that since the drugs were subsidised in March 2016 the expenditure on sofosbuvir alone, or in combination with ledipasvir, is approaching \$1 billion.

Table 1 Top 10 drugs by DDD/1000 pop/day

Drug	DDD/1000 pop/day*
1. atorvastatin	52.81
2. perindopril	33.82
3. rosuvastatin	33.56
4. amlodipine	30.66
5. paracetamol	26.85
6. irbesartan	25.60
7. esomeprazole	23.18
8. candesartan	22.71
9. ramipril	20.40
10. telmisartan	18.87

Table 2 Top 10 drugs by prescription counts

Drug	Prescriptions
1. atorvastatin	7 630 309
2. esomeprazole	6 889 031
3. rosuvastatin	6 540 962
4. paracetamol	5 056 087
5. pantoprazole	4 747 823
6. perindopril	4 049 113
7. metformin	3 578 536
8. pregabalin	3 237 101
9. fluticasone and salmeterol	3 003 985
10. salbutamol	2 975 537

Table 3 Top 10 drugs by cost to government

Drug	Cost to government (A\$)	DDD/1000 pop/day*	Prescriptions
1. ledipasvir and sofosbuvir	570 730 056	†	25 205
2. sofosbuvir	372 094 623	0.14	18 738
3. adalimumab	335 857 859	0.62	194 405
4. ranibizumab	241 256 012	†	163 595
5. aflibercept	231 194 036	†	155 404
6. esomeprazole	170 554 177	23.18	6 889 031
7. etanercept	166 538 773	0.32	97 291
8. trastuzumab	157 134 211	†	50 217
9. fluticasone and salmeterol	148 878 399	†	3 003 985
10. insulin glargine	146 202 125	7.71	367 253

* DDD/thousand population/day is a more useful measure of drug utilisation than prescription counts. It shows how many people in every thousand Australians are taking the standard dose of a drug every day. DDD includes use in combination products. The calculation is based on ABS 3101.0 – Australian Demographic Statistics for December 2015 (as at March 2016).

† The World Health Organization has not allocated a DDD for this drug.

DDD defined daily dose

PBS Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

RPBS Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

Source: Department of Health, October 2016. © Commonwealth of Australia