

Top 10 drugs 2016–17

Tables 1–3 show the top 10 drugs for the year July 2016 – June 2017. The figures are based on PBS and RPBS prescriptions from the date of supply. This year's figures include prescriptions under the co-payment (non-subsidised).

The capture of below co-payment data probably explains why drugs such as amoxicillin, which were previously absent, now appear in the top 10 drugs by prescription count. Drugs for hepatitis C continue to dominate the top 10 most expensive drugs.

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

Drug	DDD/1000 pop/day*
1. atorvastatin	69.34
2. rosuvastatin	50.14
3. perindopril	49.23
4. amlodipine	43.72
5. irbesartan	34.02
6. candesartan	32.51
7. telmisartan	29.59
8. esomeprazole	29.54
9. ramipril	28.20
10. metformin	23.61

Table 2 Top 10 drugs by prescription counts

Drug	Prescriptions
1. atorvastatin	10 354 080
2. rosuvastatin	10 239 733
3. esomeprazole	9 284 540
4. pantoprazole	6 737 757
5. perindopril	6 184 545
6. cefalexin	5 473 562
7. amoxicillin	5 445 791
8. metformin	4 941 822
9. amoxicillin and clavulanic acid	4 908 573
10. irbesartan	4 076 242

Table 3 Top 10 drugs by cost to government (does not include rebates)

Drug	Cost to government	DDD/1000 pop/day*	Prescriptions
1. ledipasvir and sofosbuvir [†]	\$969 208 772	‡	43 139
2. sofosbuvir	\$927 284 256	1.70	47 160
3. daclatasvir	\$347 075 507	1.64	44 178
4. adalimumab	\$320 626 014	35.15	207 325
5. aflibercept	\$261 241 529	‡	203 140
6. ranibizumab	\$213 069 118	‡	169 657
7. trastuzumab	\$160 173 513	‡	52 733
8. pregabalin	\$159 616 588	32.76	3 796 237
9. denosumab	\$152 044 886	36.24	534 918
10. etanercept	\$146 737 356	12.09	97 266

* 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 2016 (as at March 2017).

[†] DDDs in combination products are accounted for in constituent drugs

[‡] 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, November 2017. © Commonwealth of Australia