

Top 10 drugs

These tables show the top 10 subsidised drugs in 2006–07. The tables do not include private prescriptions.

Table 1

Top 10 drugs supplied by DDD*/1000 pop/day †

Drug	PBS/RPBS ‡
1. atorvastatin	131.799
2. simvastatin	58.072
3. ramipril	30.451
4. perindopril	21.681
5. aspirin	18.01
6. omeprazole	17.996
7. frusemide	17.984
8. irbesartan	17.28
9. salbutamol	17.116
10. esomeprazole	16.802

Table 2

Top 10 drugs by prescription counts †

Drug	PBS/RPBS ‡
1. atorvastatin	10 000 495
2. simvastatin	6 231 212
3. esomeprazole	4 428 530
4. omeprazole	3 882 359
5. paracetamol	3 754 140
6. perindopril	3 633 536
7. atenolol	3 217 151
8. irbesartan	2 989 359
9. pantoprazole	2 922 724
10. metformin hydrochloride	2 822 776

Table 3

Top 10 drugs by cost to Government †

Drug	Cost to Government (\$A)	DDD/1000/day PBS/RPBS ‡	Prescriptions PBS/RPBS ‡
1. atorvastatin	562 234 406	131.799	10 000 495
2. simvastatin	309 227 367	58.072	6 231 212
3. clopidogrel	179 983 732	9.219	2 404 361
4. esomeprazole	161 102 420	16.802	4 428 530
5. olanzapine	157 471 533	3.073	775 475
6. salmeterol and fluticasone	157 239 113	– [§]	2 789 814
7. omeprazole	114 030 881	17.996	3 882 359
8. pravastatin	93 389 809	13.537	1 870 879
9. venlafaxine	93 329 210	11.987	2 318 531
10. tiotropium bromide	91 223 529	5.289	1 303 682

* The defined daily dose (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.

† Based on date of supply

‡ PBS Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, RPBS Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

§ Combination drugs do not have a DDD allocated

Source: Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) Drug Utilisation Database, as at 11 October 2007. © Commonwealth of Australia.

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Strontium ranelate: The PBS listing for the osteoporosis drug strontium ranelate has been extended to allow treatment of postmenopausal women without an existing fracture and a bone mineral density T-score ≤ -3.0 (primary prevention). The latest issue of *NPS RADAR* describes the place in therapy of strontium relative to other anti-resorptive agents.

It also contains information on:

- the listing of the anticonvulsant drug topiramate as an alternative treatment for migraine prevention, for adults unable to tolerate beta blockers or pizotifen
- updated safety information for the glitazones – rosiglitazone and pioglitazone.

See the complete reviews at www.npsradar.org.au