

Top 10 drugs

These tables show the top 10 subsidised drugs for the year July 2011 – June 2012.

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

Constituent drug	PBS/RPBS ‡
1. atorvastatin	82.99
2. rosuvastatin	38.14
3. irbesartan	31.58
4. perindopril	31.16
5. paracetamol	29.64
6. candesartan	27.43
7. ramipril	24.95
8. amlodipine	23.33
9. simvastatin	22.03
10. esomeprazole	21.91

Table 2 Top 10 drugs by prescription counts †

Drug	PBS/RPBS ‡
1. atorvastatin	10 855 535
2. rosuvastatin	7 035 996
3. esomeprazole	6 069 831
4. paracetamol	5 362 780
5. perindopril	3 926 940
6. simvastatin	3 800 924
7. pantoprazole	3 789 090
8. metformin hydrochloride	3 427 052
9. salmeterol and fluticasone	3 130 577
10. irbesartan	3 079 136

DDDs in this table include use in combination products

Table 3 Top 10 drugs by cost to government †

Drug	Cost to government (A\$)	DDD/1000 pop/day * PBS/RPBS ‡	Prescriptions PBS/RPBS ‡
1. atorvastatin	606 051 755	82.99	10 855 535
2. rosuvastatin	369 088 997	38.14	7 035 996
3. ranibizumab	367 753 306	§	172 785
4. adalimumab	205 117 624	0.39	115 277
5. esomeprazole	178 922 823	21.91	6 069 831
6. salmeterol and fluticasone	177 315 166	¶	3 130 577
7. olanzapine	159 400 059	3.05	965 797
8. clopidogrel	139 521 901	11.00	2 635 142
9. etanercept	131 116 800	0.26	74 605
10. rituximab	129 299 223	§	59 284

* 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. (For WHO definition of DDD see www.whooc.no/ddd/definition_and_general_considera/)

† Based on date of supply. Does not include private prescriptions or prescriptions under PBS co-payment.

‡ PBS Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme, RPBS Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

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

¶ This combination does not have a DDD allocated

Source: Drug Utilisation Sub-Committee (DUSC) Database, as at 3 October 2012. © Commonwealth of Australia.

Data are based on date of supply with processing date up to the month of September 2012. Data exclude 'Under co-payment' and 'Closing the gap' prescriptions processed by the Department of Human Services.