

Top 10 drugs

These tables show the top 10 subsidised drugs for the year July 2012 – June 2013.

Aust Prescr 2013;36:211

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

Constituent drug	PBS/RPBS ‡
1. atorvastatin	75.06
2. rosuvastatin	40.97
3. perindopril	30.94
4. paracetamol	30.59
5. irbesartan	28.93
6. candesartan	26.03
7. amlodipine	24.49
8. ramipril	22.86
9. esomeprazole	22.46
10. simvastatin	18.52

Table 2 Top 10 drugs by prescription counts †

Drug	PBS/RPBS ‡
1. atorvastatin	9 691 453
2. rosuvastatin	7 547 176
3. esomeprazole	6 310 249
4. paracetamol	5 650 557
5. pantoprazole	3 853 775
6. perindopril	3 828 844
7. metformin hydrochloride	3 402 195
8. simvastatin	3 155 142
9. salmeterol and fluticasone	3 082 816
10. irbesartan	2 987 398

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	416 442 486	75.06	9 691 453
2. ranibizumab	306 998 667	§	150 641
3. rosuvastatin	299 200 480	40.97	7 547 176
4. adalimumab	230 103 495	0.43	129 700
5. esomeprazole	184 886 525	22.46	6 310 249
6. salmeterol and fluticasone	174 934 981	#	3 082 816
7. rituximab	144 051 899	§	42 420
8. olanzapine	138 378 395	2.97	957 428
9. etanercept	138 345 090	0.27	78 829
10. tiotropium bromide	124 515 675	6.67	1 873 047

* 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. 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 11 September 2013. © Commonwealth of Australia.

Data are based on date of supply with processing date up to the month of August 2013. Data exclude 'Under copayment' and 'Closing the gap' prescriptions processed by the Department of Human Services.