

REFERENCES

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Top 10 drugs

These tables show the top 10 subsidised drugs for the year July 2013 – June 2014.

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

Constituent drug	PBS/RPBS ‡
1. atorvastatin	69.31
2. rosuvastatin	41.87
3. paracetamol	33.65
4. perindopril	32.73
5. irbesartan	28.49
6. amlodipine	26.73
7. esomeprazole	24.90
8. candesartan	23.38
9. ramipril	22.43
10. simvastatin	17.94

Table 2 Top 10 drugs by prescription counts †

Drug	PBS/RPBS ‡
1. atorvastatin	8 659 127
2. rosuvastatin	7 610 977
3. esomeprazole	6 967 801
4. paracetamol	6 299 698
5. pantoprazole	4 179 926
6. perindopril	3 951 282
7. metformin hydrochloride	3 539 513
8. salmeterol and fluticasone	3 168 825
9. irbesartan	3 032 109
10. simvastatin	2 974 311

Table 3 Top 10 drugs by cost to government †

Drug	Cost to government (A\$)	DDD/1000 pop/day * PBS/RPBS ‡	Prescriptions PBS/RPBS ‡
1. rosuvastatin	284 269 233	41.87	7 610 977
2. adalimumab	270 237 753	0.50	152 563
3. atorvastatin	259 067 466	69.31	8 659 127
4. esomeprazole	204 253 775	24.90	6 967 801
5. etanercept	153 005 371	0.29	87 283
6. insulin glargine	131 811 872	6.94	320 806
7. tiotropium bromide	131 776 620	7.03	1 993 769
8. fingolimod	113 531 100	0.16	49 576
9. olanzapine	109 682 018	3.09	993 826
10. quetiapine	99 773 937	2.62	978 353

* 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. DDD includes use in combination products.

† 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

Source: Department of Health, 10 October 2014. © Commonwealth of Australia.

The cost figures exclude any patient contributions.