

Top 10 drugs 2018–19

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Tables 1–3 show the top 10 drugs for the year July 2018 – June 2019. The figures are based on PBS and RPBS prescriptions from the date of

supply. The figures include prescriptions under the co-payment (non-subsidised).

Table 1 Top 10 PBS/RPBS drugs by DDD/1000 population/day

Drug	DDD/1000 pop/day*
1. atorvastatin	71.35
2. rosuvastatin	57.44
3. perindopril	51.67
4. amlodipine	47.95
5. candesartan	32.90
6. irbesartan	31.48
7. telmisartan	31.26
8. esomeprazole	27.62
9. ramipril	26.97
10. metformin	25.14

Table 2 Top 10 PBS/RPBS drugs by prescription counts

Drug	Prescriptions
1. rosuvastatin	12,026,655
2. atorvastatin	10,967,105
3. esomeprazole	9,278,125
4. pantoprazole	7,375,606
5. perindopril	6,551,571
6. cefalexin	5,643,287
7. amoxicillin	5,254,811
8. metformin	5,017,700
9. amoxicillin + clavulanic acid	4,706,645
10. escitalopram	4,533,725

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

Drug	Cost to government	DDD/1000 pop/day*	Prescriptions
1. sofosbuvir + velpatasvir†	\$391,007,833	‡	25,447
2. aflibercept*	\$358,636,721	‡	289,522
3. adalimumab	\$317,436,175	0.74	246,220
4. nivolumab*	\$267,738,344	‡	53,861
5. pembrolizumab*	\$220,469,394	‡	25,676
6. denosumab	\$218,970,118	16.80	786,535
7. ranibizumab*	\$207,163,441	‡	180,721
8. ustekinumab	\$178,790,589	0.44	25,731
9. glecaprevir + pibrentasvir†	\$173,610,672	‡	9,207
10. apixaban	\$170,049,351	5.55	2,088,604

DDD defined daily dose

PBS Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

RPBS Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

* DDD/1000 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 2018.

† DDDs for combination products are accounted for in constituent drugs

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

Source: Department of Health, December 2019. ©Commonwealth of Australia