

Top 10 drugs 2019–20

Tables 1–3 show the top 10 drugs for the year July 2019 – June 2020. The figures are based on PBS and RPBS prescriptions from the date of

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

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

Drug	DDD/1000 pop/day*
1. atorvastatin	72.93
2. rosuvastatin	61.03
3. perindopril	52.34
4. amlodipine	50.15
5. candesartan	33.52
6. telmisartan	32.19
7. irbesartan	29.87
8. ramipril	26.44
9. sertraline	25.67
10. metformin	25.51

Table 2 Top 10 PBS/RPBS drugs by prescription counts

Drug	Prescriptions
1. rosuvastatin	12,968,693
2. atorvastatin	11,241,737
3. pantoprazole	8,283,205
4. esomeprazole	8,171,291
5. perindopril	6,688,735
6. cefalexin	5,347,062
7. metformin	5,183,224
8. escitalopram	4,983,887
9. amoxicillin	4,777,911
10. sertraline	4,714,321

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. aflibercept	\$392,045,570	‡	315,200
2. nivolumab	\$344,751,398	‡	51,882
3. pembrolizumab	\$342,875,272	‡	38,860
4. adalimumab	\$320,969,041	0.76	257,328
5. denosumab	\$244,407,111	18.44	884,413
6. sofosbuvir + velpatasvir†	\$223,484,429	‡	17,733
7. ranibizumab	\$218,085,968	‡	190,126
8. ustekinumab	\$211,250,971	0.49	29,603
9. apixaban	\$210,022,698	6.81	2,580,428
10. glecaprevir + pibrentasvir†	\$186,730,613	‡	9,956

DDD defined daily dose

PBS Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

RPBS Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme

* 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. The calculation is based on ABS 3101.0 – Australian Demographic Statistics for December 2019.

† 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 2020. ©Commonwealth of Australia