Explanatory notes for GP Prescribing by Practice Datasets

Source

The Business Services Organisation (BSO) is the provider of the data. GP practice level prescribing data is obtained from the BSO's prescribing and dispensing information systems. The data covers prescriptions that are prescribed by a GP or Nurse (within a main GP Practice), subsequently dispensed (by a Community Pharmacist, Appliance Supplier or Dispensing Doctor) and submitted to the Business Services Organisation (BSO) for payment. The data includes all prescribed medicines, dressings and appliances that are dispensed each month. If a patient does not take a prescription to a dispenser and get it provided to them, then the information will not be included in the dataset. Private prescriptions are not included in the data. Hospice items are excluded. Post-payment adjustments are excluded.

Format

On or before the last working day of each quarter, the following files will be produced, covering products dispensed during the previous quarter:

- **PracticePrescribingDataMMYYYY** (provided in csv and xls formats)
- **PracticeDetailsMMYYYY** (provided in csv, PDF and xls formats)

PracticePrescribingDataMMYYYY

Field Name	Description
Practice	National Practice code. Can be linked to other datasets that contain same code.
Year	Year prescription item was dispensed
Month	Month prescription item was dispensed
VTM_NM	Substance/Product name
VMP_NM	Generic name
AMP_NM	Branded / Generic name
Presentation	The form of the product e.g. tablet, caplet, capsule etc.
Strength	The amount of the active ingredient that is present in each dosage
BNFCode	British National Formulary code which identifies the drug prescribed
Items	The total number of items for the drug prescribed.
Quantity	The total quantity of the drug prescribed. This quantity may be measured in a variety of units, for example, in units (tablets, capsules etc) or in millilitres or grammes.
Gross Cost	Gross of the drug before any discounts are deducted or fees added.
Actual Cost	Net ingredient cost minus an average discount plus a container allowance.
BNF Chapter	Product's therapeutic group Chapter
BNF Section	Product's therapeutic group Section

BNF Paragraph	Product's therapeutic group Paragraph
BNF Sub-paragraph	Product's therapeutic group Sub-paragraph

PracticeDetailsMMYYYY

Field Name	Description
Practice	National Practice code.
Year	Year the Practice list is derived
Month	Month the Practice list is derived
Address1	1st line of Practice address
Address2	2nd line of Practice address
Address3	3rd line of Practice address
Postcode	Postcode of Practice address
LCG	LCG of Practice address
Registered Patients	Number of Registered Patients as of the start of that quarter