Caveats:

NHSBSA Prescription Services process prescriptions for Pharmacy Contractors, Appliance Contractors, Dispensing Doctors and Personal Administration with information then used to make payments to pharmacists and appliance contractors in England for prescriptions dispensed in primary care settings (other arrangements are in place for making payments to Dispensing Doctors and Personal Administration). This involves processing over 1 billion prescription items and payments totalling over £9 billion each year. The information gathered from this process is then used to provide information on costs and trends in prescribing in England and Wales to over 25,000 registered NHS and Department of Health users.

Data in ePACT2 is sourced from the NHSBSA Information Services Data Warehouse and is derived from products prescribed on NHS prescriptions and dispensed in the Community. The data captured from prescription processing is used to calculate reimbursement and remuneration and includes prescription items which were prescribed in England and dispensed in the community in England as well as items prescribed in England and dispensed in Wales, Scotland, and the Isle of Man

The Data excludes:

* Items not dispensed, disallowed and those returned to the contractor for further clarification.
* Prescriptions prescribed and dispensed in Prisons, Hospitals and Private prescriptions.
* Items prescribed but not presented for dispensing or not submitted to NHS Prescription Services by the dispenser

The data provided is based on England Hospital Trust prescribing only and may include items prescribed in England but dispensed in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Guernsey, Jersey, Alderney and the Isle of Man

The data only includes items prescribed by NHS Hospital Trust Units which have been dispensed in the community. Cost Centre data is not included in this dataset.

The BNF Code is a 15 digit code in which the first seven digits are allocated according to the categories in the BNF and the last 8 digits represent the medicinal product, form, strength and the link to the generic equivalent product. The NHS Prescription Services has created pseudo BNF chapters, which are not published, for items not included in BNF chapters 1 to 15. The majority of such items are dressings and appliances, which the NHS Prescription Services has classified into four pseudo BNF chapters (20 to 23).

Total Net Ingredient cost NIC is the basic price of a drug as stated in Part II Clause 8 of the Drug Tariff but please note that where a price concession for items listed in Part VIIIA of the Drug Tariff has been agreed between the Department of Health and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee the NIC will reflect the concession price rather than the Drug Tariff price.

Total Items shows the number of times a product appears on a prescription form not the quantity prescribed.

Total Quantity is the number of items multiplied by the quantity prescribed. e.g. 2 items prescribed, one with a quantity of 2 and one with a quantity of 3, the total quantity would show as 5  (1 item x quantity of 2) + (1 item x quantity of 3)

Total Actual Cost is the basic price of the drug less the National Average Discount Percentage (NADP) plus Payment for Consumables (previously known container allowance), Out of Pocket Expenses and Payment for Containers. The calculation for the discount amount is the basic price multiplied by the NADP. Actual Cost only relates to England.