

NHS and LA Reforms Factsheet 3

Prescribing and dispensing information provided by NHS Prescription Services

NHS Prescription Services (which is part of the NHS Business Services Authority) provides a variety of prescribing and dispensing related data to NHS stakeholders. This paper sets out the information provided now and the organisations which receive it. The paper also sets out what will be provided from April 2013 and who will receive it.

The information is based on prescriptions that have been written by GPs and other prescribers and have been dispensed in primary care by pharmacies, appliance contractors and dispensing doctors in England.

Appendix A provides an overview of the main Information Services.

NHS Prescription Services holds data about prescribers and organisations in a hierarchy (see fact sheet 2). The existing hierarchy has had some changes made to accommodate the new organisational changes which come into effect 1 April 2013. For example the hierarchy now accommodates those Local Authorities who commission/provide services. The basis of the hierarchy links a prescriber to a GP practice or other cost centre to a parent organisation. Therefore, the way in which an organisation sets up its codes with NHS Prescription Services will determine the levels of data it is able to obtain from the information services (see Appendix A).

The sections below provide an overview of the current and future arrangements for prescribing and dispensing information provision.

Supporting the NHS, supplying the NHS, protecting the NHS

NHS Prescription Services is a service provided by the NHS Business Services Authority

Prescribing Information

Current arrangement

Currently, NHS Prescription Services makes available up to 60 months of prescribing information to GP Practices, Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) to allow monitoring, trend analysis and benchmarking of their prescribing activity. The information provided to PCTs is also broken down to each cost centre (eg. GP Practice).

Hospital Trusts can access their prescribing cost information so that they can reconcile the invoice submitted to them by NHSBSA. This information is not provided to commissioners of hospital services, i.e. PCTs.

Prescribing information is also provided to other organisations, such as NHS Information Centre, NICE, Department of Health and Care Quality Commission so that they can carry out their functions.

Future arrangements after NHS and LA Reforms

From April, the information currently provided to PCTs will be made available to Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG), local authorities and other new provider organisations. CCGs will be able to see 60 months of data for the GP practices within that CCG organisation. The NHS Commissioning Board's Area Teams (Area Teams) will receive the information currently made available to SHAs.

Organisations which existed prior to April 2013 (e.g. Dummy practices/provider cost centres) will continue to be provided the same access to historic data.

*Hospital Trusts will continue to receive the same FP10HP information as currently provided.

*GP Practices will continue to receive the same information as now.

*New provider cost centres will receive the same level of information as GP practices but the historic data will not be available to them.

*Services to national organisations will remain as now.

Both commissioners and providers will be able to access prescribing data for financial and clinical governance and the attached table shows which reports organisations can access for the services they commission / provide.

Dispensing information

Current arrangements

The main source of dispensing activity and payment data is the Management Information Spreadsheet (MIS) which is made available to each PCT for the dispensing contracts (Pharmacy and Appliance Contractors) they are responsible for.

Other dispensing related information is made available on NHSBSA website, such as Monthly Medicines Use Reviews, Monthly New Pharmacy Contract Information and Completed New Medicines Services.

In addition, dispensing related information is also provided to the NHS Information Centre to allow the publication of national statistics and to Department of Health to support policy development and monitoring.

Future arrangements after NHS and LA Reforms

Following the NHS and LA Reforms, dispensing information, such as MIS, will be made available to Area Teams and to local authorities. Appliance Contractor information will be made available to the appropriate Area Team.

Services to national organisations will remain as now.

Information that is made available on NHSBSA website will be restructured from PCT to Area Teams' summaries from April 2013 prescription data.

Improving the Information Service

The existing information services have evolved over a number of years and this has resulted in multiple databases and reporting interfaces being in existence. To deliver the initial information needs of NHS organisations and local authorities following the NHS Reforms, the new organisation structure will be slotted into the existing services.

However, the Information Services Modernisation programme is underway to deliver a single interface where all prescribing and dispensing information can be securely accessed. The Information Services Portal has been delivered with a number of reports already included. This programme will continue in order to develop and improve the information and insight provided.

Further information needs will become apparent as the new organisations bed in and NHSBSA will work with these organisations to enhance the information service to support users.

A User Forum has also been established to contribute to the design and development of prescribing and dispensing information reports and systems as part of the modernisation activity. This group will evolve to represent all user groups and will be vital in ensuring the information service reflects what is needed moving forward.

Further information on the project, members of the user forum and how you can contribute to the design of the information service can be found at:
<http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/3607.aspx>

How to gain access to Information Services

To gain access to the NHS Prescription Services Information Systems there is a registration process to complete. More information can be found on the entry page of each system. These can all be accessed from <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/PrescriptionServices/3162.aspx> or by clicking on the hyperlink in the table in Appendix A.

Appendix A – Overview of Information Provision

NHS Prescription Services provides NHS and, from April 2013, local authority stakeholders with consistent prescribing and dispensing information, based on prescribing by GPs and other prescribers that was dispensed in the community, for activity monitoring and financial management purposes.

The following is an overview of the main services. To find more detailed information about these services and how to gain access, Ctrl and click on the abbreviation in the Report/System Column.

Report/System	Description of current service	Current Access						Access following NHS Reforms							
		National*	SHA	PCT	Hospital Trust (FP10HPS)	Agency ¹	GP Practices	Prescriber	National*	Area Team (AT)	CCG/LA/ Provider	Hospital Trust (FP10HPS)	Agency ¹	Practice/LA	Prescriber
electronic Prescription and Cost Trend Analysis (ePACT.net)	A service for Pharmaceutical and Prescribing Advisors which allows on-line analysis of the previous sixty months prescribing data.	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		
Hospital electronic Prescription and Cost Trend Analysis (Hospital ePACT.net)	A service for Trust Pharmaceutical and Prescribing Advisors which allows on-line access to hospital prescribing dispensed in the community data.			✓	✓						✓				
Electronic Prescribing & Financial Information for Practices (ePFIP)	A service that enables GP practice based prescribers to compare and manage their prescribing performance.			✓			✓	✓			✓			✓	✓
Prescribing Monitoring Document (PMD)	Monthly financial information about prescribing costs against prescribing budgets.	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Itemised Prescribing Payment Report (IPP)	Monthly apportionment of each month's drug costs.	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓				
Remuneration Reports	Monthly remuneration costs relating to prescribing that was dispensed by	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓			

Report/System	Description of current service	Current Access							Access following NHS Reforms						
		National*	SHA	PCT	Hospital Trust (FP10HPS)	Agency ¹	GP Practices	Prescriber	National*	Area Team (AT)	CCG/LA/ Provider	Hospital Trust (FP10HPS)	Agency ¹	Practice/LA	Prescriber
	pharmacy and appliance contractors.														
Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention (QIPP) Prescribing Comparators	QIPP Prescribing Comparators are charts and data tables which show values for prescribing comparators supporting the QIPP (Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention) medicine use and procurement workflow.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prescribing Comparators	A range of reports which enables users to compare prescribing performance against other prescribing organisations using predefined drug lists and indicators.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prescribing Monitoring Document (PD2)	A quarterly PCT level summary of prescribing. It helps identify prescribing that warrants further analysis through the ePACT.net service.	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓				
PCT prescribing report	Allows the comparison and measurement of their prescribing against local and national values.			✓							✓				
PCT repeat dispensing report	A report to monitor the cost and number of prescriptions under the repeat dispensing initiative for each prescriber and practice within a PCT.			✓							✓				
PCT Out of Hours Care (OOHC) Net Ingredient Cost (NIC) report	A report of monthly and cumulative net ingredient cost of non-FP10 supply by OOHC providers.	✓		✓					✓		✓				

Report/System	Description of current service	Current Access							Access following NHS Reforms						
		National*	SHA	PCT	Hospital Trust (FP10HPS)	Agency ¹	GP Practices	Prescriber	National*	Area Team (AT)	CCG/LA/ Provider	Hospital Trust (FP10HPS)	Agency ¹	Practice/LA	Prescriber
Controlled Drug (CD) Requisition Report	A report of monthly items prescribed on Controlled Drug Requisition form	✓		✓					✓		✓				
Home Oxygen Therapy Reports	A monthly report which allows PCT's to monitor payments to the Oxygen Suppliers for patients registered in their PCT/Region.			✓							✓				
Prescriptions Dispensed Report (PD1)	The PD1 Report shows national values for drug costs and fees. This is openly available on BSA website.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DH National Programme Budget Reports	To assist the financial management of the primary care prescribing budget in relation to the National Programme Budget Categories.			✓							✓				
Management Information Spreadsheet (MIS)	PCT level spreadsheet which provides contractor payment schedule information for all pharmacy and dispensing contractors in the area.			✓						✓					

* National” refers to the Department of Health, the NHS Commissioning Board HQ, the NHS Information Centre and the Care Quality Commission.

¹ Agency refers to an organisation commissioned by a PCT, CCG, parent or LA to carry out prescribing analysis and reporting and have been authorised to access their data.