

Statistics at NHSBSA

General Pharmaceutical Services (GPhS) – England

National Statistics assessment action plan.

Document Release Note

Document Name: General Pharmaceutical Services (GPhS)– England, National Statistics assessment action plan.

Document Details Name	Version Number	Description
General Pharmaceutical Services (GPhS) – England, National Statistics assessment action plan.	v001	An action plan outlining the actions required by NHBSA to retain National Statistics designation for the General Pharmaceutical Services England publication.

Revision Details Revision Number	Revision Date	Revision Description	Page Number	Previous Page Number	Action Taken	Addenda/ New Page

About this document

The NHS Business Services Authority's (NHSBSA) General Pharmaceutical Services – England Official Statistic release was assessed from April 2021 to July 2021 by the [Office for Statistics Regulation](#) (OSR) to determine if it fully complied with the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#), and met the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality, and public value.

OSR identified 4 requirements for NHSBSA to address in order to ensure the high standards associated with National Statistics designation are met. This action plan outlines how the NHSBSA Official Statistics team proposes to achieve these requirements by October 2021. This will allow OSR to recommend to the UK Statistics Authority that National Statistics status for these statistics is confirmed.

The OSR Assessment report can be found on its [website](#).

Requirement	Proposed actions
<p>1. NHSBSA should improve the supporting summary tables to make them more user friendly and easier to extract data from. It should consult with users on any planned changes to ensure that the tables better meet users' needs.</p>	<p>a. NHSBSA will redesign the supporting summary tables for the GPhS publication, structuring the data to make it accessible for users and more machine readable.</p>
	<p>b. NHSBSA will use existing user feedback to guide development of table redesign. NHSBSA after publication will engage with users to make sure that the supporting summary tables better meet their needs. This will be done by a future user engagement event to be announced on our website.</p>
<p>2. To provide clarity on the methodological changes for as wide a range of users as possible, NHSBSA should provide a brief explanation of the changes in the main report. This could include linking to the background information and methodology note for those users who require more detailed information.</p>	<p>a. NHSBSA will include high level descriptions of the methodologies used in the statistics within the statistical summary narrative, including any changes from previous methodologies.</p>
	<p>b. NHSBSA will provide more detailed information about the methodologies used, including any changes, in the background information and methodology note that accompanies the release. This will be clearly linked and signposted to make accessing it as easy as possible.</p>

<p>3. NHSBSA should ensure that the degree of uncertainty in the figures is clearly explained within the publication to ensure appropriate use.</p>	<p>a. NHSBSA will use existing Government Statistical Service guidance to better communicate the uncertainty of the figures in this publication in future releases.</p>
<p>4. NHSBSA should explore the impact of checks made as part of the prescriptions processing procedure on the accuracy of the statistics and determine whether any adjustments to the statistics are needed. Depending on the findings of these investigations, NHSBSA should either make any necessary changes to the statistics and explain these changes and the reasons for them clearly to the users or communicate clearly to users the accuracy of the statistics and the sources of any uncertainty.</p>	<p>b. NHSBSA will provide further information on the processes used to assure quality for the figures in this publication in the accompanying background information and methodology note.</p> <p>a. NHSBSA will produce an ad-hoc report to be published alongside the next release of GPhS on the impacts of post payment verification (PPV) and other checks carried out by NHS Prescription Services (a division of NHSBSA) on the statistics.</p> <p>b. NHSBSA will provide a high-level description of the ad-hoc report in the next release of GPhS. This will include commentary on the accuracy and sources of uncertainty in the statistics along with any changes that have been made, if deemed necessary. NHSBSA will also clearly signpost the report to allow users to easily access it and view its conclusions.</p>

	<p>c. If any changes are necessary to the statistics, NHSBSA will provide a back series of data as far back as is possible to allow users to make comparisons over a longer period of time.</p>
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Contact us

Feedback is important to us; we welcome any questions and comments relating to this document.

Please quote 'General Pharmaceutical Services (GPhS) – England, National Statistics assessment action plan.' in the subject title of any correspondence.

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