Opioids have well established side effects and repeated administration may cause tolerance and dependence. The aim of this measure is to encourage the appropriate use and review of opioids in primary care, minimising the potential for dependence, diversion, misuse and adverse drug reactions.

When compared with the previous year, Swansea Bay’s performance IMPROVED. Opioid burden decreased by 0.5% in 2018–2019. Out of the 7 health boards, Swansea Bay is ranked:

- % change from last year: 6th
- Current overall performance: 3rd

**GLOSSARY**

**ADQs** – average daily quantity – a measure of prescribing volume based upon prescribing behaviour in England. It represents the assumed average maintenance dose per day for a medicine used for its main indication in adults. ADQ is not a recommended dose but an analytical unit to compare prescribing activity.

**DDD**s – defined daily dose – a unit of measurement developed by the World Health Organization whereby each medicine is assigned a value within its recognised dosage range. The value is the assumed average maintenance dose per day for a medicine when used for its main indication in adults. A medicine can have different DDDs depending on the route of administration.

**STAR-PU**s – specific therapeutic group age-sex related prescribing units – designed to measure prescribing weighted for age and sex of patients. There are differences in the age and sex of patients for whom medicines in specific therapeutic groups are usually prescribed. To make such comparisons, STAR-PU**s have been developed based on costs of prescribing or items within therapeutic groups.
Both gabapentin and pregabalin have the propensity to cause depression of the central nervous system, and when used in combination with other depressants they can cause drowsiness, sedation, respiratory failure and death. The aim of this measure is to encourage the appropriate use and review of gabapentin and pregabalin in primary care, minimising the potential for dependence, diversion, misuse and adverse drug reactions.

Gabapentin and pregabalin (DDDs per 1,000 patients) - quarterly trend up to March 2019

Out of the 7 health boards, Swansea Bay’s performance DETERIORATED

Gabapentin and pregabalin prescribing increased by **10.1%** in 2018–2019

% change from last year: 7th

Current overall performance: 5th

Primary care

The widespread and often excessive use of antimicrobials is one of the main factors contributing to the increasing emergence of antimicrobial resistance. The aim of this measure is to encourage the appropriate prescribing of all antibiotics in primary care.

Total antibiotic prescribing (items per 1,000 STAR-PU) - quarterly trend up to March 2019

Out of the 7 health boards, Swansea Bay’s performance IMPROVED

Total antibiotic prescribing decreased by **4.5%** in 2018–2019

% change from last year: 7th

Current overall performance: 6th
The use of the broad spectrum antibiotics known as 4C antimicrobials (co-amoxiclav, cephalosporins, clindamycin and fluoroquinolones) when narrow spectrum antibiotics remain effective increases the risk of healthcare associated infections (e.g. *Clostridioides difficile*, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and resistant urinary tract infections). The aim of this measure is to reduce variation and overall prescribing of 4C antimicrobials in primary care.

When compared with the previous year, Swansea Bay’s performance **IMPROVED**

4C antimicrobial prescribing decreased by **10.3%** in 2018–2019

Out of the 7 health boards, Swansea Bay is ranked:

% change from last year: **2nd**

Current overall performance: **5th**

A series of ‘Low Priority for Funding’ papers endorsed by the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group recommend decreased prescribing of a range of items considered as not suitable for routine prescribing; whether they are items of low clinical effectiveness or items where more cost-effective alternatives are available. The data below displays the money saved (per 1,000 patients) due to reduced spend on items listed within these papers.

Swansea Bay achieved a saving of **26.3%** in 2018–2019

Out of the 7 health boards, Swansea Bay is ranked:

% reduction in spend in 2018-19: **2nd**

Total spend per 1,000 patients: **2nd**
A biosimilar medicine is a biological medicine that is developed to be highly similar and clinically equivalent to an existing biological medicine. The aim of this measure is to increase the appropriate use of cost-efficient biological medicines, including biosimilar medicines.

| Access to medicines | New Treatment Fund |

The New Treatment Fund requires the seven health boards to make recommended medicines available as soon as is reasonably practicable and certainly within 60 days of AWMSG/NICE approval. The data below displays the proportion of medicines made available on formulary within 60 days and the average time (in days) until their inclusion, following AWMSG/NICE approval.

| Percentage of medicines on formulary within 60 days | Average time (days) to inclusion of medicines on formulary |

Out of the 7 health boards, Swansea Bay is ranked: % of medicines on formulary within 60 days: 7th in 2018-2019

Average time to inclusion of medicines on formulary: 1st in 2018-2019

When compared with the previous year, Swansea Bay’s performance improved.

Biosimilar usage in Swansea Bay (as a % of total biological) - quarterly trend up to March 2019

Out of the 6 health boards*, Swansea Bay is ranked:

- % change from last year: 6th
- Current overall performance: 5th

*Powys is not included in this measure.

Please note: These data are extracted from the Medusa Data Warehouse which has a central mapping of individual items. This is reviewed on a regular basis and therefore differences may exist between various data sets.

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