Primary care

Tramadol

While there is a recognised place in pain management for tramadol, there are concerns regarding the risks associated with dependence, diversion, misuse and adverse drug reactions. The aim of this measure is to promote a prudent approach to prescribing tramadol, taking into account the risks and benefits, and to encourage timely review.

**Key**

- **Aneurin Bevan**
- **Cardiff and Vale**
- **Hywel Dda**
- **Betsi Cadwaladr**
- **Cwm Taf Morgannwg**
- **Powys**
- **Swansea Bay**

This logo is displayed alongside sections of the report where further data are available on the Server for Prescribing Information Reporting and Analysis (SPIRA). Find out more at awttc.org/spira

**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.

**DDDs** - 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-PUs** - 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-PUs have been developed based on costs of prescribing or items within therapeutic groups.

**AEC** - anticholinergic effect on cognition

**When compared with the previous year, Hywel Dda’s performance IMPROVED**

- **Tramadol prescribing** decreased by **6.2%** in 2019–2020

- **Out of the 7 health boards, Hywel Dda is ranked:**
  - **% change from last year**: **5th**
  - **Current overall performance**: **5th**
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.

When compared with the previous year, Hywel Dda’s performance **DETERIORATED**

Out of the 7 health boards, Hywel Dda is ranked:

- % change from last year: **5th**
- Current overall performance: **4th**

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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.

When compared with the previous year, Hywel Dda’s performance **IMPROVED**

Out of the 7 health boards, Hywel Dda is ranked:

- % change from last year: **2nd**
- Current overall performance: **4th**
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.

### Primary care — 4C antimicrobial prescribing

When compared with the previous year, Hywel Dda’s performance **IMPROVED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% change from last year</th>
<th>Current overall performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2nd</strong></td>
<td><strong>6th</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Out of the 7 health boards, Hywel Dda is ranked:

4C antimicrobial prescribing decreased by **17.3%** in 2019–2020

A series of ‘Low value for prescribing’ 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 difference in spend (per 1,000 patients) on items listed within Paper 1 and Paper 2 of this series.

### Primary care — Low value for prescribing

Hywel Dda achieved a decrease in spend on items of **12.8%** in 2019–2020

Out of the 7 health boards, Hywel Dda is ranked:

- % reduction in spend in 2019-2020: **5th**
- Total spend per 1,000 patients: **7th**
Primary care

**Patient Safety Indicator***

Patients aged ≥ 65 years old prescribed antipsychotics

Antipsychotics should be avoided in patients with dementia unless the person is at risk of harming themselves or others, or experiencing agitation, hallucinations or delusions that are causing them severe distress. Patients identified by this indicator should be reviewed and/or monitored as appropriate.

![Graph showing quarterly trend up to March 2020 for number of patients ≥ 65 years old prescribed antipsychotics.]

![Graph showing locality data for number of patients ≥ 65 years old prescribed antipsychotics as a percentage of all patients ≥ 65 years old.]

Comparing number of patients identified, quarters March 2020 vs March 2019

Hywel Dda's performance DETERIORATED

Number of patients identified increased by 4.7%

Comparing number of patients as a % of all patients ≥ 65 years old, quarters March 2020 vs March 2019

Out of the 6 health boards†, Hywel Dda is ranked:

% change from March 2019: 1st
Current overall performance: 1st

Primary care

**Patient Safety Indicator***

Patients with asthma prescribed a beta-blocker

Beta-blockers should be avoided in patients with asthma due to the potential to precipitate bronchospasm. Patients identified by this indicator should be reviewed and/or monitored as appropriate.

![Graph showing quarterly trend up to March 2020 for number of patients with asthma prescribed a beta-blocker.]

![Graph showing locality data for number of patients with asthma prescribed a beta-blocker as a percentage of patients with asthma.]

Comparing number of patients identified, quarters March 2020 vs March 2019

Hywel Dda's performance DETERIORATED

Number of patients identified increased by 23.8%

Comparing number of patients as a % of patients with asthma, quarters March 2020 vs March 2019

Out of the 6 health boards†, Hywel Dda is ranked:

% change from March 2019: 6th
Current overall performance: 4th

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* Patient Safety Indicators will not pick up instances where a patient has been reviewed and prescribing has been found to be appropriate.

† 2018-2019 Powys reporting has been omitted due to technical difficulties with data extraction from one GP practice. For this reason, Powys has been omitted from the health board rankings for this Patient Safety Indicator.
Primary care

Patient Safety Indicator*

Patients aged ≥ 75 years old with an AEC score of ≥ 3 for items on active repeat

Risk of adverse clinical outcomes in older people prescribed anticholinergic medications increases with increasing anticholinergic exposure. Patients identified by this indicator should be reviewed for a possible reduction in anticholinergic burden; helping to minimise potential medication-related risks.

Number of patients ≥ 75 years old with an AEC score of ≥ 3 for items on active repeat - Quarterly trend up to March 2020†

Comparing number of patients identified, quarters March 2020 vs March 2019

Hywel Dda’s performance DETERIORATED

Number of patients identified increased by 9.4%

Out of the 6 health boards†, Hywel Dda is ranked:

% change from March 2019: 4th
Current overall performance: 1st

Primary care

Patient Safety Indicator*

Female patients aged 14–45 years old with a prescription for sodium valproate

Due to the high risk of malformations and developmental problems associated with exposure of babies to valproate medicines, they must no longer be used in women or girls able to have children unless they have a Pregnancy Prevention Programme in place. Patients identified by this indicator should be reviewed.

Number of female patients aged 14—45 years old with a prescription for sodium valproate - Quarterly trend up to March 2020

Comparing number of patients identified, quarters March 2020 vs June 2019

Hywel Dda’s performance IMPROVED

Number of patients identified decreased by 0.8%

Out of the 7 health boards, Hywel Dda is ranked:

% change from March 2019: 7th
Current overall performance: 3rd

* Patient Safety Indicators will not pick up instances where a patient has been reviewed and prescribing has been found to be appropriate.
† 2018-2019 Powys reporting has been omitted due to technical difficulties with data extraction from one GP practice. For this reason, Powys has been omitted from the health board rankings for this Patient Safety Indicator.
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.

### Access to medicines

When compared with the previous year, Hywel Dda’s performance **improved**

### 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Aneurin Bevan</th>
<th>Betsi Cadwaladr</th>
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<th>Hywel Dda</th>
<th>Powys</th>
<th>Swansea Bay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019/20</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Average time (days) to inclusion of medicines on formulary

<table>
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<th>Hywel Dda</th>
<th>Powys</th>
<th>Swansea Bay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>14.0</td>
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<td>14.0</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Out of the 7 health boards, Hywel Dda is ranked:

- **1st** % of medicines on formulary within 60 days in 2019-2020
- **6th** Average time to inclusion of medicines on formulary in 2019-2020

Please note: These data are extracted via a central mapping of individual items. This is reviewed on a regular basis and therefore differences may exist between various data sets.

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.

**Biosimilar prescribing (as a % of total biologic)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Aneurin Bevan</th>
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<th>Hywel Dda</th>
<th>Swansea Bay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>52.5%</td>
<td>58.1%</td>
<td>71.0%</td>
<td>69.7%</td>
<td>79.0%</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>58.0%</td>
<td>53.6%</td>
<td>57.7%</td>
<td>68.0%</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
<td>54.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019/20</td>
<td>66.5%</td>
<td>57.7%</td>
<td>56.6%</td>
<td>69.0%</td>
<td>78.0%</td>
<td>54.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Biosimilar usage in Hywel Dda (as a % of total biologic)**

- **6th** Current overall performance

*Powys is not included in this measure.*