

# Mental Health Prescribing Dashboard

The Mental Health Prescribing Dashboard highlights variation in mental health prescribing across CCGs in England. It also gives you access to local level data allowing you to view your area's performance in this clinical area and how it can be improved.



## Developed in collaboration

The Dashboard was developed in collaboration with the National Mental Health Dashboard Task and Finish Group, a team of national mental health specialists, who agreed specific areas of focus with the aim of improving safety and health outcomes for patients with mental health conditions. Making use of rich prescribing data collected by the NHS Business Services Authority, the group agreed five metrics, each with its own view page.

The Mental Health Prescribing Dashboard metrics:

**Prescribing of antidepressants and prescribing of antipsychotics:** These two metrics allow users to compare CCG prescribing of antidepressants and antipsychotics nationally, and also to compare prescribing between practices within each CCG. The high risk groups have been identified: children (aged 1-18) and patients prescribed multiple antidepressants and multiple antipsychotics.

**Co-prescribing of lithium and nephrotoxic agents:** This metric shows the number of unique patients who are co-prescribed lithium and a nephrotoxic medication. These patients are at high risk and GP practices that are identified should be alerted to this potentially unsafe prescribing.

**Prescribing of multiple psychotropics:** This shows the number of patients who are prescribed a combination of antidepressants and antipsychotics. The higher the number of individual medications prescribed the higher the risk of adverse effects. CCGs should ensure that patients identified have appropriate monitoring in place and that prescribing is reviewed if appropriate.

**Prescribing of anti-dementia drugs and antipsychotics:** This metric shows patients who are prescribed both an anti-dementia medication and an antipsychotic. Antipsychotics should be used only when necessary in this population, and for the shortest time possible.

## Reviewing performance

You can choose a reporting period for your CCG in each of the five metrics. Your performance will be displayed in the dashboard in a number of graphical presentations:

- Results for individual practices within the CCG to show variation between practices.
- Results for CCGs in relation to other CCGs.
- Trend results showing the data across multiple time periods to allow trends to be identified.

You can search in more detail by selecting various grouping levels which will only display CCGs with the selected structure (i.e. Regions, STP Footprints, and AHSNs etc.)

## Improving health outcomes for patients with mental health conditions

The dashboard is one tool which can be used to improve safety and health outcomes for patients with mental health conditions. It can help generate discussion about mental health prescribing; help to identify areas for improvement in prescribing and also potentially identify best practice and future programmes of work.

Managing patients appropriately in the community and ensuring their medicines are prescribed and used optimally, offers many benefits:

- Identification of patients at risk from the prescribing of lithium and nephrotoxic agents.
- Identification of patients at risk from the prescribing of anti-dementia drugs and antipsychotics.
- Increased transparency around variation in prescribing.

## Accessing the Mental Health Prescribing Dashboard

The dashboard is available through our online application ePACT2. If you don't have access and you wish to register for ePACT2, please email [nhsbsa.registration@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbsa.registration@nhs.net)

To help you get the best out of the Mental Health Dashboard, we have developed some additional guidance which accompanies this document.

## Tell us what you think

Our aim for the dashboard is to help you deliver better outcomes for your patients so it is important that it works well for you. Please let us know about your experience of using the dashboard as well as any suggestion as this will help us to drive improvement. Please forward your feedback to:

[nhsbsa.help@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbsa.help@nhs.net)

**For further information, please contact:**



**Information Services at** [nhsbsa.help@nhs.net](mailto:nhsbsa.help@nhs.net)



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