

Appendix 2. Number of medicines and estimated cost to patients: Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme concessional and general patients

Patient category	No. prescriptions dispensed		Estimated cost to patients (\$)
	All prescriptions dispensed	Unique longer-term medicines ^A	
PBS concessional patients			
All PBS concessional patients (n=184,159)	45 (28–66)	5 (4–8)	242 (163–351)
Age group (years)			
18–30 (n=464)	24 (12–41)	4 (2–6)	157 (78–293)
31–45 (n=3828)	31 (16–56)	4 (3–7)	213 (111–358)
46–60 (n=19,030)	39 (21–64)	5 (3–7)	241 (137–371)
61–80 (n=121,430)	43 (27–64)	5 (3–8)	234 (156–332)
81–99 (n=39,357)	54 (37–75)	6 (4–9)	280 (195–384)
Patient sex			
Male (n=87,505)	45 (28–66)	5 (4–8)	241 (163–338)
Female (n=96,654)	44 (28–66)	5 (4–8)	247 (163–358)
Lipid-lowering medication			
Statin only (n=165,216)	44 (27–66)	5 (3–8)	241 (163–345)
Other drugs/combinations (n=18,943)	50 (32–73)	6 (4–9)	267 (182–371)
Comorbidities ^B			
Diabetes (n=53,060)	59 (40–83)	7 (5–10)	299 (215–397)
No diabetes (n=131,099)	39 (25–59)	5 (3–7)	221 (150–319)
Hypertension (n=126,537)	50 (34–71)	6 (4–8)	267 (189–369)
No hypertension (n=57,622)	32 (18–53)	4 (2–6)	189 (111–293)
Congestive heart failure (n=12,840)	76 (55–101)	10 (7–12)	358 (260–423)
No congestive heart failure (n=171,319)	43 (27–63)	5 (3–7)	234 (156–338)
PBS general patients			
All PBS general patients (n=113,924)	24 (13–38)	3 (2–5)	438 (234–760)
Age group (years)			
18–30 (n=558)	10 (5–19)	2 (1–3)	178 (91–365)
31–45 (n=8320)	15 (8–27)	2 (1–4)	271 (132–507)
46–60 (n=49,423)	22 (12–35)	3 (2–5)	394 (208–685)
61–80 (n=52,509)	27 (16–42)	4 (2–5)	499 (287–833)
81–99 (n=3110)	43 (28–61)	5 (4–7)	825 (511–1214)

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Appendix 2. Number of medicines and estimated cost to patients: Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme concessional and general patients (cont'd)

Patient category	No. prescriptions dispensed		Estimated cost to patients (\$)
	All prescriptions dispensed	Unique longer-term medicines ^A	
PBS general patients (cont'd)			
Patient sex			
Male (n=70,891)	24 (13–38)	3 (2–5)	440 (231–767)
Female (n=43,033)	25 (14–39)	3 (2–5)	434 (239–749)
Lipid-lowering medication			
Statin only (n=102,740)	24 (13–38)	3 (2–5)	413 (220–721)
Other drugs/combinations (n=11,184)	29 (17–44)	4 (3–6)	693 (441–1042)
Comorbidities ^B			
Diabetes (n=26,331)	37 (23–53)	5 (3–7)	761 (453–1153)
No diabetes (n=87,593)	22 (12–34)	3 (2–4)	375 (202–629)
Hypertension (n=62,039)	32 (22–46)	4 (3–6)	580 (364–924)
No hypertension (n=51,885)	15 (9–26)	2 (1–3)	280 (152–518)
Congestive heart failure (n=1830)	57 (40–78)	8 (6–10)	1120 (738–1529)
No congestive heart failure (n=112,094)	24 (13–38)	3 (2–5)	432 (231–746)

All data are presented as the median (interquartile range).

^APrescriptions with different Anatomic Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) codes and two or more repeats or quantity >100.

^BComorbidities identified by use of a validated tool using drug ATC codes.

PBS, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.