

Changes to QIPP Prescribing Comparators (April 2013)

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Introduction

This document details the changes that are to be made to the QIPP prescribing comparators developed to support the '[Key Therapeutic Topics - Medicines management options for local implementation](#)' publication (MPC, NICE). The changes will be implemented from quarter 1 2013/14 data (available August 2013) onwards.

The changes take into account feedback received from NHS and commercial partners. A separate document, 'QIPP prescribing comparators feedback April 2013', details the feedback received and responses to the feedback and is available on the [Health & Social Care Information Centre website \(Update - April 2013\)](#)

Full details of all the current comparators are detailed in '[QIPP Prescribing Comparators Descriptions and Specifications \(August 2012\)](#)', also available on the Health & Social Care Information website. NB: The document will be updated shortly to incorporate changes to the comparators.

Summary of changes

The current QIPP prescribing comparators are to remain unchanged for 2013/14 with the exception of the following:

1. Low cost lipid modifying drugs

The current comparator is to be retained and amended:

- Numerator to be amended to only include generic statin preparations listed under Category M in part VIII of the drug tariff.
- See appendices 1 and 2 for further details.

2. Omega-3 fatty acid compounds (new comparator)

A new comparator is to be introduced to support a new key therapeutic topic. See appendices 1 and 3 for further details.

3. Antidepressant ADQ/STAR-PU

The current comparator is to be retained and amended:

- Numerator amended to only measure total ADQs for the drugs included in the denominator used for the 'first choice' antidepressant comparator introduced in August 2012. Antidepressant (BNF 4.3)
- STAR-PU values to be reviewed for the amended numerator (above) and, if significantly different, denominator amended to utilise revised anti-depressant (sub-set) STAR-PU values.
- Comparator description to be amended to reflect the amended numerator and amended selected anti-depressant (sub-set) STAR-PU values (if amended).
- See appendices 1 and 4 for further details.

4. Long/intermediate acting insulin analogues

The current comparator is to be retained and amended:

- Numerator to be amended to include degludec (a new long acting insulin analogue available from February 2013).
- Comparator title to be amended from 'Long/intermediate acting insulin analogues' to 'Long-acting insulin analogues'
- Comparator description to be amended to remove specific reference to detemir and glargine and therefore including all current and any future long-acting insulin analogues.
- See appendices 1 and 5 for further details.

Appendix 1: Amendments and additions to QIPP prescribing comparators

Comparator	Comparator description (current)	Changes from Q1 2013/14 data (available August 2013)
Laxatives ADQ/STAR PU	Total number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for laxatives per STAR-PU	Retain. No changes to current comparator.
ACE inhibitor % items	Number of prescription items for angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all drugs affecting the renin-angiotensin system excluding aliskiren.	Retain. No changes to current comparator.
Low cost lipid modifying drugs	Number of prescription items for simvastatin and pravastatin as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all statins, plus the total number of prescription items for combination of simvastatin/ezetimibe, plus total number of prescription items for ezetimibe alone.	Retain and amend from Q1 2013/14 data. Numerator to be amended to only include generic statin preparations listed under Category M in part VIII of the drug tariff. See appendix 2 for further details.
Lipid modifying drugs: Ezetimibe % items	Number of items for ezetimibe and ezetimibe/simvastatin combinations as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all statins, plus the total number of prescription items for combination of simvastatin/ezetimibe, plus total number of prescription items for ezetimibe alone.	Retain. No changes to current comparator.
Omega-3 fatty acid compounds	N/A (new comparator)	New comparator to be introduced from Q1 2013/14 data. Total number of ADQs for omega-3 fatty acid compounds per STAR-PU See appendix 3 for further details
Hypnotics ADQ/STAR PU	Total number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for benzodiazepines (indicated for use as hypnotics) and 'Z' drugs per STAR-PU	Retain. No changes to current comparator.

Comparator	Comparator description (current)	Changes from Q1 2013/14 data (available August 2013)
Antidepressants: ADQ/STAR PU	Total number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for all antidepressant prescribing (BNF 4.3) per STAR-PU	<p>Retain and amend from Q1 2013/14 data.</p> <p>Amend numerator from 'all antidepressants (BNF 4.3)' to that of the denominator of the 'first choice % items' comparator (below). i.e. only measure total number of ADQs for 'selected' antidepressants.</p> <p>Amend denominator to utilise a revised anti-depressant (subset) STAR-PU values (NB: only if significantly different to anti-depressant (BNF 4.3) STAR-PU values).</p> <p>Amend comparator description to reflect the amended numerator and amended denominator (if amended).</p> <p>See appendix 4 for further details.</p>
Antidepressants: First choice % items	Number of prescription items for '1 st choice' generic SSRIs as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for selected 'other antidepressants'	<p>Retain.</p> <p>No changes to current comparator.</p>
Antibacterial items/STAR PU	Number of prescription items for antibacterial drugs (BNF 5.1) per STAR-PU	<p>Retain.</p> <p>No changes to current comparator.</p>
Cephalosporins & quinolones % items	Number of prescription items for cephalosporins and quinolones as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for selected antibacterial drugs (BNF 5.1)	<p>Retain</p> <p>No changes to current comparator.</p>
3 days trimethoprim ADQ/item	Total number of average daily quantities (ADQs) per item for trimethoprim 200mg tablets.	<p>Retain.</p> <p>No changes to current comparator.</p>
Minocycline ADQ/1000 patients	Total number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for minocycline per 1000 patients	<p>Retain.</p> <p>No changes to current comparator.</p>

Comparator	Comparator description (current)	Changes from Q1 2013/14 data (available August 2013)
Hypoglycaemic drugs	Number of prescription items for metformin and sulfonylureas as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all antidiabetic drugs.	<p>Retain. No changes to current comparator.</p> <p>NB: Proposed that comparator name will be changed to 'Antidiabetic drugs' (as per BNF section 6.1.2) following the next revision to "Key therapeutic topics" publication.</p>
Long/intermediate insulin analogues	Number of prescription items for long acting human analogue insulins detemir and glargine as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all long acting and intermediate acting insulins excluding biphasic insulins.	<p>Retain and amend from Q1 2013/14 data. Amend numerator to include degludec (new long acting insulin analogue).</p> <p>Amend comparator title to 'Long-acting insulin analogues'</p> <p>Amend comparator description to remove specific reference to detemir and glargine and therefore include all available long-acting analogue insulins (current and future).</p> <p>See appendix 5 for further details</p>
NSAIDs: Ibuprofen & naproxen % items	Number of prescription items for ibuprofen and naproxen as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all NSAIDs.	<p>Retain. No changes to current comparator.</p>
NSAIDs: ADQ/STAR PU	Total number of average daily quantities (ADQs) for all NSAIDs (BNF 10.1.1) per STAR-PU	<p>Retain. No changes to current comparator.</p>
Wound care products: NIC/item	Cost (NIC) per item for wound care products	<p>Retain. No changes to current comparator.</p> <p>Comparator to be reviewed post NHS reforms with consideration to the options implemented locally for community nurse prescribing cost centres.</p>

Appendix 2: Details of changes to 'Low cost lipid modifying drugs' comparator

	Current comparator	Changes from Q1 2013/14 data																																		
Comparator title	Low cost lipid modifying drugs	Title to remain unchanged																																		
Comparator description	Number of prescription items for simvastatin and pravastatin as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all statins, plus the total number of prescription items for combination of simvastatin/ezetimibe, plus total number of prescription items for ezetimibe alone.	Number of prescription items for generic statin preparations listed under category M in part VIII of the Drug Tariff as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all statins, plus the total number of prescription items for combination of simvastatin/ezetimibe, plus total number of prescription items for ezetimibe alone.																																		
Numerator	Number of prescription items for simvastatin and pravastatin (sub-set of BNF 2.12)	Number of prescription items for generic statin preparations listed under category M in part VIII of the Drug Tariff (sub-set of BNF 2.12) ¹																																		
	<table><tr><th>BNF Name</th><th>BNF Code</th></tr><tr><td>Pravastatin Sodium</td><td>0212000X0</td></tr><tr><td>Simvastatin</td><td>0212000Y0</td></tr></table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Pravastatin Sodium	0212000X0	Simvastatin	0212000Y0	<table><tr><th>BNF Name</th><th>BNF Code</th></tr><tr><td>Atorvastatin_Tab 10mg</td><td>0212000B0AAAAAA</td></tr><tr><td>Atorvastatin_Tab 20mg</td><td>0212000B0AAABAB</td></tr><tr><td>Atorvastatin_Tab 40mg</td><td>0212000B0AAACAC</td></tr><tr><td>Atorvastatin_Tab 80mg</td><td>0212000B0AAADAD</td></tr><tr><td>Fluvastatin Sod_Cap 20mg</td><td>0212000M0AAAAAA</td></tr><tr><td>Fluvastatin Sod_Cap 40mg</td><td>0212000M0AAABAB</td></tr><tr><td>Pravastatin Sod_Tab 10mg</td><td>0212000X0AAAAAA</td></tr><tr><td>Pravastatin Sod_Tab 20mg</td><td>0212000X0AAABAB</td></tr><tr><td>Pravastatin Sod_Tab 40mg</td><td>0212000X0AADAD</td></tr><tr><td>Simvastatin_Tab 10mg</td><td>0212000Y0AAAAAA</td></tr><tr><td>Simvastatin_Tab 20mg</td><td>0212000Y0AAABAB</td></tr><tr><td>Simvastatin_Tab 40mg</td><td>0212000Y0AADAD</td></tr><tr><td>Simvastatin_Tab 80mg</td><td>0212000Y0AAAHAH</td></tr></table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Atorvastatin_Tab 10mg	0212000B0AAAAAA	Atorvastatin_Tab 20mg	0212000B0AAABAB	Atorvastatin_Tab 40mg	0212000B0AAACAC	Atorvastatin_Tab 80mg	0212000B0AAADAD	Fluvastatin Sod_Cap 20mg	0212000M0AAAAAA	Fluvastatin Sod_Cap 40mg	0212000M0AAABAB	Pravastatin Sod_Tab 10mg	0212000X0AAAAAA	Pravastatin Sod_Tab 20mg	0212000X0AAABAB	Pravastatin Sod_Tab 40mg	0212000X0AADAD	Simvastatin_Tab 10mg	0212000Y0AAAAAA	Simvastatin_Tab 20mg	0212000Y0AAABAB	Simvastatin_Tab 40mg	0212000Y0AADAD	Simvastatin_Tab 80mg	0212000Y0AAAHAH
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	Fluvastatin Sod_Cap 20mg	0212000M0AAAAAA																																		
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Denominator	Number of prescription items for all statins, including combination of simvastatin / ezetimibe, and ezetimibe (sub-set of BNF 2.12).		Denominator to remain unchanged (see left)
	BNF Name	BNF Code	
	Atorvastatin	0212000B0	
	Cerivastatin	0212000C0	
	Ezetimibe	0212000L0	
	Fluvastatin Sodium	0212000M0	
	Lovastatin	0212000R0	
	Pravastatin Sodium	0212000X0	
	Rosuvastatin Calcium	0212000AA	
	Simvastatin	0212000Y0	
Simvastatin & Ezetimibe	0212000AC		

¹ Numerator will be reviewed prior to release of quarterly data to reflect current category M preparations listed in part VIII latest edition of the Drug Tariff

Appendix 3: Specification for new comparator “Omega-3 fatty acid compounds”

QIPP Prescribing Comparator Description	Total number of ADQs for omega-3 fatty acid compounds per STAR-PU						
Comparator Title	Omega-3 ADQ/STAR PU						
Numerator	<p>Total number of average daily quantities for Omega-3 fatty acid compounds</p> <table> <tr> <th>BNF Name</th><th>BNF Code</th></tr> <tr> <td>Omega-3 Marine Triglycerides</td><td>0212000V0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Omega-3-Acid Ethyl Esters</td><td>0212000AB</td></tr> </table> <p>Average Daily Quantity values are available for both chemical substances</p> <p>Omega-3 Marine Triglycerides ADQ = 10g</p> <p>Omega-3-Acid Ethyl Esters ADQ = 1g</p>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Omega-3 Marine Triglycerides	0212000V0	Omega-3-Acid Ethyl Esters	0212000AB
BNF Name	BNF Code						
Omega-3 Marine Triglycerides	0212000V0						
Omega-3-Acid Ethyl Esters	0212000AB						
Denominator	<p>Number of ADQ based ‘Omega-3 fatty acid compounds’ STAR-PUs</p> <p>STAR-PU values currently being developed. Values will be provided when available.</p>						

Appendix 4: Details of changes to 'Antidepressant ADQ/STAR-PU' comparator

	Current comparator	Proposed changes																								
Comparator title	Antidepressants: ADQ/STAR PU	Title to remain unchanged																								
Comparator description	Total number of average daily quantities (ADQs) per Star-PU for all antidepressant prescribing	Total number of average daily quantities (ADQs) per STAR-PU for selected antidepressant prescribing																								
Numerator	<div>Total average daily quantity (ADQ) usage for antidepressants (BNF 4.3)</div> <table><thead><tr><th>BNF Name</th><th>BNF Code</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Antidepressant Drugs</td><td>0403</td></tr></tbody></table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Antidepressant Drugs	0403	<div>Total ADQs for selected antidepressants (sub-set of BNF section 4.3)</div> <table><thead><tr><th>BNF Name</th><th>BNF Code</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Antidepressant Drugs</td><td>0403</td></tr></tbody></table> <div>excluding:<table><thead><tr><th>BNF Name</th><th>BNF Code</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Amitriptyline Hydrochloride</td><td>0403010B0</td></tr><tr><td>Clomipramine Hydrochloride</td><td>0403010F0</td></tr><tr><td>Imipramine Hydrochloride</td><td>0403010N0</td></tr><tr><td>Nortriptyline</td><td>0403010V0</td></tr><tr><td>Trimipramine</td><td>0403010Y0</td></tr><tr><td>Monoamine-Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)</td><td>040302</td></tr><tr><td>Flupentixol Hydrochloride</td><td>0403040F0</td></tr></tbody></table></div> <div>NB: This numerator is the same as the denominator of the current antidepressants: % first choice items comparator</div>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Antidepressant Drugs	0403	BNF Name	BNF Code	Amitriptyline Hydrochloride	0403010B0	Clomipramine Hydrochloride	0403010F0	Imipramine Hydrochloride	0403010N0	Nortriptyline	0403010V0	Trimipramine	0403010Y0	Monoamine-Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)	040302	Flupentixol Hydrochloride	0403040F0
BNF Name	BNF Code																									
Antidepressant Drugs	0403																									
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Amitriptyline Hydrochloride	0403010B0																									
Clomipramine Hydrochloride	0403010F0																									
Imipramine Hydrochloride	0403010N0																									
Nortriptyline	0403010V0																									
Trimipramine	0403010Y0																									
Monoamine-Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs)	040302																									
Flupentixol Hydrochloride	0403040F0																									

Denominator	Number of cost-based antidepressant (BNF 4.3) STAR- PUs		Number of cost-based 'selected antidepressant (sub-set of BNF 4.3) STAR-PUs NB: STAR-PU values currently being developed. Values will be provided when available.	
	BNF Name	BNF Code		
	Antidepressant Drugs	0403		
	Cost-based antidepressant STAR-PU			
	Age Range	Male Weighting		Female Weighting
	0 to 4	0.000		0.000
	5 to 14	0.000		0.000
	15 to 24	0.600		1.300
	25 to 34	2.200		4.400
	35 to 44	4.100		8.000
	45 to 54	4.700		9.800
	55 to 64	5.400		9.100
	65 to 74	4.500		8.000
75+	5.400	10.200		

NB: STAR-PU values currently being developed. Values will be provided when available.

Appendix 5: Details of changes to 'Long/intermediate acting insulin analogues' comparator

	Current comparator	Proposed changes																						
Comparator title	Long/intermediate insulin analogues	Change title to ‘Long-acting insulin analogues’																						
Comparator description	Number of prescription items for long acting human analogue insulins detemir and glargine as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all long acting and intermediate acting insulins excluding biphasic insulins.	Number of prescription items for long-acting human analogue insulins as a percentage of the total number of prescription items for all long acting and intermediate acting insulins excluding biphasic insulins.																						
Numerator	<div>Number of prescription items for insulin detemir and insulin glargine (sub-set of BNF section 6.1.1.2)</div> <table><tr><th>BNF Name</th><th>BNF Code</th></tr><tr><td>Insulin Detemir</td><td>0601012X0</td></tr><tr><td>Insulin Glargine</td><td>0601012V0</td></tr></table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Insulin Detemir	0601012X0	Insulin Glargine	0601012V0	<div>Number of prescription items for long-acting insulin analogues (sub-set of BNF section 6.1.1.2)</div> <table><tr><th>BNF Name</th><th>BNF Code</th></tr><tr><td>Insulin Degludec</td><td>0601012Z0</td></tr><tr><td>Insulin Detemir</td><td>0601012X0</td></tr><tr><td>Insulin Glargine</td><td>0601012V0</td></tr></table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Insulin Degludec	0601012Z0	Insulin Detemir	0601012X0	Insulin Glargine	0601012V0								
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Insulin Detemir	0601012X0																							
Insulin Glargine	0601012V0																							
Denominator	<div>Number of prescription items for all long acting and intermediate acting insulins <u>excluding</u>* biphasic insulins (sub-set of BNF section 6.1.1.2).</div> <table><tr><th>BNF Name</th><th>BNF Code</th></tr><tr><td>Insulin Detemir</td><td>0601012X0</td></tr><tr><td>Insulin Glargine</td><td>0601012V0</td></tr><tr><td>Insulin Zinc Suspension</td><td>0601012G0</td></tr><tr><td>Insulin Zinc Suspension (Amorphous)</td><td>0601012L0</td></tr><tr><td>Insulin Zinc Suspension (Crystalline)</td><td>0601012N0</td></tr><tr><td>Isophane Insulin</td><td>0601012S0</td></tr><tr><td>Other Intermed&Long-Acting Insulin Preps</td><td>060101200</td></tr><tr><td>Protamine Zinc Insulin</td><td>0601012U0</td></tr></table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Insulin Detemir	0601012X0	Insulin Glargine	0601012V0	Insulin Zinc Suspension	0601012G0	Insulin Zinc Suspension (Amorphous)	0601012L0	Insulin Zinc Suspension (Crystalline)	0601012N0	Isophane Insulin	0601012S0	Other Intermed&Long-Acting Insulin Preps	060101200	Protamine Zinc Insulin	0601012U0	<div>Denominator to remain unchanged (see left) with the addition of:</div> <table><tr><th>BNF Name</th><th>BNF Code</th></tr><tr><td>Insulin Degludec</td><td>0601012Z0</td></tr></table>	BNF Name	BNF Code	Insulin Degludec	0601012Z0
BNF Name	BNF Code																							
Insulin Detemir	0601012X0																							
Insulin Glargine	0601012V0																							
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Insulin Zinc Suspension (Crystalline)	0601012N0																							
Isophane Insulin	0601012S0																							
Other Intermed&Long-Acting Insulin Preps	060101200																							
Protamine Zinc Insulin	0601012U0																							
BNF Name	BNF Code																							
Insulin Degludec	0601012Z0																							