

9 Medications

This chapter includes data about the medications prescribed, advised or supplied by general practitioners from each of the 10 years of the BEACH study from 1999–00 to 2008–09. The direction and type of change from 1999–00 to 2008–09 is indicated for each result in the far right column of the tables: \uparrow/\downarrow indicates a statistically significant linear change, \uparrow/\downarrow indicates a marginally significant linear change, \S indicates a non-linear significant or marginal change, and – indicates there was no change.

Significant linear changes can be extrapolated to estimate the national increase or decrease in the prescribed, supplied, or advised medication rate between 1999–00 and 2008–09. Some examples of extrapolated changes are given for each table. The method used to extrapolate to national change estimates is described in Chapter 2, Section 2.8.

GPs could record up to four medications for each of four problems – a maximum of 16 medications per encounter. Each medication could be recorded as prescribed (the default), supplied by the GP or recommended for over-the-counter (OTC) purchase.

There was no significant change in total medication rates per 100 encounters between 1999–00 and 2008–09 (Table 9.1a). However, Table 9.1b shows that between the two data periods, total medication rates decreased significantly per 100 problems managed.

9.1 Prescribed medications

The rate of prescribed medications fell from 93.8 per 100 encounters in 1999–00 to 86.4 per 100 in 2008–09. This significant decrease in prescription rate means that 7.4 fewer prescriptions were being written on average for every 100 GP–patient encounters in 2008–09 than 10 years earlier (Table 9.1a). The extrapolated national effect of this change is 1.8 million fewer prescriptions given by GPs in 2008–09 than in 1999–00.

Table 9.2 shows prescribing rates of common drug groups at ATC drug group Level 2 over the 10-year period. There were approximately 2.4 million fewer drugs for obstructive airways disease prescribed in 2008–09 than in 1999–00 and 930,000 fewer sex hormones such as systemic contraceptives and hormone replacement therapy. Conversely, extrapolations showed 2.4 million more prescriptions for lipid reducing agents and over 1 million more prescriptions for acid-related digestive disorder drugs in 2008–09 than in 1999–00.

Table 9.3 shows prescribed medication rates at the individual generic level. Some medications that were prescribed more often in 2008–09 than in 1999–00 were oxycodone, which showed extrapolated estimates of 1.1 million more times prescribed, tramadol (800,000 more) and warfarin sodium (640,000 more).

Number of repeats ordered

The pattern of the number of repeat prescriptions recorded by GPs changed between 1999–00 and 2008–09, although no change occurred in the percentage of prescriptions with three, four or six or more repeats (Table 9.4). There was a significant decrease in the proportion of prescribed medications for which one or two repeats were ordered and a significant increase in the proportion of prescriptions for which five repeats were recorded. In 1999–00, 26.8% of prescriptions were given five repeats whereas, in 2008–09, 34.8% of prescribed medications had five repeats, an increase of 30.0% from the 1999–00 results.

Table 9.1a: Rates of medications prescribed, advised for over-the-counter purchase, supplied, per 100 encounters, BEACH, 1999–00 to 2008–09

Rate per 100 encounters (95% CI) ^(a)											
	1999–00	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	(b)
Medications	(n = 104,856)	(n = 99,307)	(n = 96,973)	(n = 100,987)	(n = 98,877)	(n = 94,386)	(n = 101,993)	(n = 91,805)	(n = 95,898)	(n = 96,688)	↕
Prescribed	93.8 (91.5–96.2)	92.3 (89.9–94.7)	88.0 (85.6–90.4)	84.3 (81.8–86.9)	86.0 (83.6–88.5)	83.4 (81.2–85.5)	85.8 (83.3–88.4)	83.3 (81.0–85.5)	82.4 (80.3–84.6)	86.4 (84.1–88.6)	↕
GP-supplied	6.9 (6.0–7.7)	6.9 (5.9–7.9)	7.6 (6.6–8.7)	9.3 (8.0–10.6)	8.6 (7.6–9.6)	8.1 (7.3–8.8)	8.8 (8.2–9.5)	8.9 (8.2–9.6)	10.1 (9.5–10.7)	11.0 (10.2–11.8)	↕
Advised OTC	9.4 (8.7–10.1)	9.0 (8.2–9.7)	8.9 (8.2–9.6)	10.2 (9.3–11.1)	9.8 (9.0–10.5)	10.1 (9.2–10.9)	9.8 (9.0–10.5)	9.4 (8.7–10.1)	10.1 (9.3–10.9)	8.9 (8.3–9.4)	—
Total medications	110.1 (107.8–112.4)	108.2 (105.7–110.6)	104.5 (102.2–106.9)	103.8 (101.4–106.2)	104.4 (102.1–106.7)	101.5 (99.3–103.8)	104.4 (101.8–107.0)	101.5 (99.2–103.9)	102.7 (100.3–105.0)	106.3 (104.0–108.5)	—

(a) Missing data removed.

(b) The direction and type of change from 1999–00 to 2008–09 is indicated for each result: ↕ indicates a statistically significant change, and — indicates there was no change.

Note: CI—confidence interval.

Table 9.1b: Rates of medications prescribed, advised for over-the-counter purchase, supplied per 100 problems, BEACH, 1999–00 to 2008–09

Rate per 100 problems (95% CI) ^(a)											
	1999–00	2000–01	2001–02	2002–03	2003–04	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09	(b)
Medications	(n = 153,857)	(n = 143,528)	(n = 139,092)	(n = 146,336)	(n = 148,521)	(n = 137,330)	(n = 149,088)	(n = 136,333)	(n = 145,078)	(n = 149,462)	↕
Prescribed	63.9 (62.5–65.4)	63.9 (62.4–65.4)	61.4 (59.8–62.9)	58.2 (56.6–59.8)	58.8 (57.3–60.3)	57.3 (55.9–58.7)	58.7 (57.2–60.3)	56.1 (54.7–57.4)	54.5 (53.2–55.8)	55.9 (54.5–57.2)	↕
GP-supplied	4.7 (4.0–5.4)	4.8 (3.9–5.6)	5.3 (4.4–6.3)	6.4 (5.3–7.5)	5.9 (5.1–6.7)	5.5 (5.0–6.1)	6.0 (5.6–6.5)	6.0 (5.5–6.5)	6.7 (6.3–7.1)	7.1 (6.6–7.6)	↕
Advised OTC	6.4 (5.8–7.0)	6.2 (5.6–6.8)	6.2 (5.7–6.7)	7.0 (6.3–7.7)	6.7 (6.1–7.2)	6.9 (6.3–7.5)	6.7 (6.2–7.2)	6.3 (5.8–6.8)	6.7 (6.2–7.2)	5.7 (5.3–6.1)	—
Total medications	75.0 (73.6–76.4)	74.8 (73.3–76.3)	72.9 (71.4–74.3)	71.6 (70.1–73.1)	71.3 (70.0–72.7)	69.8 (68.9–71.2)	71.4 (69.9–72.9)	68.4 (67.0–69.7)	67.9 (66.5–69.2)	68.7 (67.5–70.0)	↕

(a) Missing data removed.

(b) The direction and type of change from 1999–00 to 2008–09 is indicated for each result: ↕ indicates a statistically significant change, and — indicates there was no change.

Note: CI—confidence interval.

Table 9.2: Distribution of prescribed medications (by ATC Level 2), BEACH, 1999–00 to 2008–09

ATC Level 2	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)										^(b)
	1999–00 (n = 104,856)	2000–01 (n = 99,307)	2001–02 (n = 96,973)	2002–03 (n = 100,987)	2003–04 (n = 98,877)	2004–05 (n = 94,386)	2005–06 (n = 101,993)	2006–07 (n = 91,805)	2007–08 (n = 95,898)	2008–09 (n = 96,688)	
Antibacterials for systemic use	15.7 (15.2–16.3)	15.4 (14.8–16.0)	13.9 (13.4–14.4)	13.3 (12.8–13.9)	13.6 (13.1–14.2)	14.0 (13.5–14.6)	14.6 (14.0–15.2)	14.0 (13.4–14.5)	13.8 (13.2–14.3)	14.6 (14.1–15.1)	↕
Analgesics	9.6 (9.1–10.2)	8.9 (8.4–9.4)	8.5 (8.1–9.0)	8.5 (8.0–9.1)	8.5 (8.0–9.0)	8.3 (7.8–8.7)	9.0 (8.4–9.5)	8.6 (8.1–9.0)	8.5 (8.0–8.9)	8.5 (8.1–8.9)	↕
Agents acting on the renin-angiotensin system	4.1 (3.8–4.3)	4.6 (4.3–4.8)	5.0 (4.7–5.3)	4.9 (4.6–5.2)	5.5 (5.1–5.8)	5.5 (5.2–5.8)	6.1 (5.7–6.5)	6.5 (6.1–6.9)	6.6 (6.2–7.0)	7.1 (6.7–7.4)	↕
Psycholeptics	5.4 (5.0–5.7)	5.2 (4.9–5.5)	5.1 (4.8–5.5)	4.7 (4.4–5.0)	5.0 (4.7–5.4)	4.9 (4.6–5.2)	5.0 (4.6–5.3)	4.8 (4.5–5.2)	4.7 (4.4–5.0)	5.0 (4.7–5.3)	—
Serum lipid reducing agents	2.2 (2.0–2.4)	2.4 (2.2–2.5)	2.4 (2.3–2.6)	2.4 (2.2–2.6)	2.8 (2.6–3.0)	3.0 (2.8–3.2)	3.3 (3.0–3.6)	3.4 (3.2–3.7)	3.7 (3.5–4.0)	4.1 (3.8–4.3)	↕
Drugs for obstructive airway diseases	6.6 (6.1–7.0)	5.6 (5.2–5.9)	5.1 (4.8–5.5)	4.6 (4.3–4.9)	4.1 (3.9–4.4)	3.8 (3.6–4.1)	3.9 (3.6–4.1)	3.8 (3.5–4.0)	3.6 (3.3–3.8)	3.8 (3.6–4.0)	↕
Psychoanaesthetics	3.0 (2.8–3.1)	3.1 (2.9–3.3)	3.0 (2.8–3.2)	3.0 (2.8–3.2)	3.3 (3.1–3.5)	3.1 (3.0–3.3)	3.3 (3.1–3.5)	3.5 (3.3–3.7)	3.5 (3.3–3.6)	3.7 (3.5–3.9)	↕
Anti-inflammatory and antirheumatic products	4.6 (4.4–4.9)	5.8 (5.5–6.0)	5.3 (5.1–5.6)	4.8 (4.6–5.1)	4.8 (4.5–5.0)	4.5 (4.2–4.7)	3.9 (3.7–4.2)	3.6 (3.3–3.7)	3.5 (3.2–3.7)	3.4 (3.2–3.5)	↕
Drugs for acid-related disorders	2.6 (2.4–2.8)	2.4 (2.2–2.5)	2.5 (2.4–2.7)	2.5 (2.4–2.7)	2.9 (2.7–3.0)	2.7 (2.5–2.9)	3.1 (2.9–3.2)	3.0 (2.8–3.2)	3.1 (2.9–3.2)	3.3 (3.1–3.4)	↕
Drugs used in diabetes	1.8 (1.6–2.0)	2.0 (1.8–2.2)	2.2 (2.0–2.4)	1.9 (1.7–2.1)	2.2 (2.0–2.4)	2.1 (1.9–2.2)	2.5 (2.2–2.7)	2.4 (2.2–2.6)	2.5 (2.3–2.7)	2.9 (2.6–3.2)	↕
Sex hormones and modulators of the genital system	3.9 (3.7–4.1)	3.9 (3.7–4.1)	3.8 (3.6–4.0)	3.7 (3.5–3.9)	3.5 (3.3–3.7)	3.1 (2.9–3.3)	3.0 (2.8–3.2)	3.0 (2.7–3.3)	2.9 (2.7–3.0)	2.7 (2.5–2.9)	↕
Corticosteroids, dermatological preparations	2.8 (2.7–3.0)	3.1 (2.8–3.3)	2.8 (2.7–3.0)	2.6 (2.5–2.8)	2.6 (2.4–2.7)	2.8 (2.6–2.9)	2.5 (2.4–2.7)	2.6 (2.4–2.8)	2.6 (2.4–2.7)	2.6 (2.5–2.8)	—

(continued)

Table 9.2 (continued): Distribution of prescribed medications (by ATC Level 2), BEACH, 1999–00 to 2008–09

ATC Level 2	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)											^(b) ↑ ↓
	1999–00 (n = 104,856)	2000–01 (n = 99,307)	2001–02 (n = 96,973)	2002–03 (n = 100,987)	2003–04 (n = 98,877)	2004–05 (n = 94,386)	2005–06 (n = 101,993)	2006–07 (n = 91,805)	2007–08 (n = 95,898)	2008–09 (n = 96,688)		
Calcium channel blockers	2.5 (2.3–2.7)	2.3 (2.1–2.5)	2.2 (2.0–2.4)	2.0 (1.8–2.1)	2.2 (2.0–2.3)	2.0 (1.8–2.1)	2.2 (2.0–2.4)	2.1 (2.0–2.3)	2.1 (1.9–2.3)	2.3 (2.1–2.4)	—	
Beta-blocking agents	1.9 (1.7–2.1)	1.7 (1.5–1.8)	1.8 (1.6–1.9)	1.6 (1.5–1.7)	1.8 (1.7–2.0)	1.7 (1.5–1.8)	1.9 (1.8–2.1)	1.8 (1.7–2.0)	1.7 (1.6–1.9)	2.0 (1.8–2.1)	—	
Anti-thrombotic agents	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	1.1 (1.0–1.3)	1.1 (1.0–1.2)	1.3 (1.2–1.4)	1.3 (1.2–1.4)	1.3 (1.2–1.4)	1.5 (1.3–1.6)	1.5 (1.4–1.7)	1.8 (1.6–1.9)	↑	
Ophthalmologicals	1.7 (1.6–1.8)	1.6 (1.5–1.7)	1.5 (1.4–1.6)	1.6 (1.5–1.7)	1.7 (1.5–1.8)	1.7 (1.6–1.8)	1.9 (1.7–2.0)	1.7 (1.6–1.8)	1.7 (1.5–1.8)	1.7 (1.6–1.8)	—	
Vaccines	4.2 (3.8–4.6)	3.8 (3.5–4.2)	3.9 (3.5–4.2)	4.2 (3.8–4.5)	3.3 (3.0–3.6)	2.9 (2.6–3.3)	2.5 (2.2–2.8)	1.7 (1.5–1.9)	1.6 (1.4–1.8)	1.6 (1.4–1.8)	↓	
Corticosteroids for systemic use	1.4 (1.3–1.5)	1.2 (1.1–1.3)	1.3 (1.2–1.5)	1.1 (1.0–1.2)	1.3 (1.1–1.4)	1.2 (1.1–1.4)	1.3 (1.2–1.4)	1.3 (1.2–1.5)	1.2 (1.1–1.3)	1.3 (1.2–1.4)	—	
Diuretics	2.1 (1.9–2.3)	1.9 (1.7–2.0)	1.7 (1.5–1.9)	1.6 (1.4–1.7)	1.5 (1.4–1.7)	1.4 (1.2–1.5)	1.4 (1.3–1.5)	1.4 (1.3–1.5)	1.3 (1.1–1.4)	1.3 (1.2–1.4)	↓	
Cardiac therapy	1.7 (1.5–1.8)	1.2 (1.1–1.3)	1.2 (1.1–1.3)	1.0 (0.8–1.1)	1.0 (0.9–1.2)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	↓	
Thyroid therapy	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.7 (0.6–0.7)	0.7 (0.6–0.7)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.7 (0.7–0.8)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	↑	
Nasal preparations	1.6 (1.5–1.7)	1.5 (1.3–1.6)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	↓	
Otologicals	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	1.0 (0.9–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.8 (0.8–0.9)	0.8 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.8 (0.7–0.8)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.8 (0.7–0.8)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	—	
Total prescribed medications	93.8 (91.5–96.2)	92.3 (89.9–94.7)	88.0 (85.6–90.4)	84.3 (81.8–86.9)	86.0 (83.6–88.5)	83.4 (81.2–85.5)	85.8 (83.3–88.4)	83.3 (81.0–85.5)	82.4 (80.3–84.6)	86.4 (84.1–88.6)	↓	

(a) Column will not add to 100, as multiple prescriptions could be written at each encounter. Also, only the most frequent medications are included.

(b) The direction and type of change from 1999–00 to 2008–09 is indicated for each result. ↑/↓ indicates a statistically significant change, ↗/↘ indicates a marginal change and — indicates there was no change.

Note: CI—confidence interval.

Table 9.3: Most frequently prescribed medications (by CAPS generic), BEACH, 1999–00 to 2008–09

Generic drug	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)											^(b) ↕
	1999–00 (n = 104,856)	2000–01 (n = 99,307)	2001–02 (n = 96,973)	2002–03 (n = 100,987)	2003–04 (n = 98,877)	2004–05 (n = 94,386)	2005–06 (n = 101,993)	2006–07 (n = 91,805)	2007–08 (n = 95,898)	2008–09 (n = 96,688)		
Amoxicillin	3.1 (2.9–3.4)	3.2 (3.0–3.5)	2.9 (2.7–3.1)	3.1 (2.8–3.4)	3.3 (3.0–3.5)	3.5 (3.2–3.8)	3.6 (3.3–3.8)	3.3 (3.0–3.6)	3.5 (3.2–3.7)	3.5 (3.3–3.8)	–	
Cephalexin	2.1 (1.9–2.2)	2.2 (2.0–2.4)	2.0 (1.9–2.2)	1.9 (1.8–2.0)	2.0 (1.9–2.2)	2.4 (2.2–2.6)	2.5 (2.3–2.7)	2.3 (2.2–2.5)	2.4 (2.3–2.6)	2.5 (2.3–2.6)	↕	
Paracetamol	4.1 (3.7–4.4)	3.9 (3.6–4.3)	3.1 (2.8–3.4)	3.1 (2.8–3.5)	2.9 (2.5–3.2)	2.7 (2.4–2.9)	3.0 (2.7–3.3)	2.6 (2.3–2.9)	2.5 (2.2–2.7)	2.3 (2.1–2.5)	↕	
Paracetamol–codeine	2.4 (2.2–2.6)	2.2 (2.0–2.4)	2.2 (2.1–2.4)	2.0 (1.8–2.2)	2.1 (1.9–2.3)	2.0 (1.8–2.2)	2.0 (1.8–2.2)	2.0 (1.8–2.1)	1.9 (1.7–2.1)	1.9 (1.8–2.0)	↕	
Atorvastatin	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	1.0 (1.0–1.2)	1.2 (1.1–1.3)	1.4 (1.3–1.5)	1.6 (1.4–1.8)	1.7 (1.5–1.8)	1.7 (1.6–1.9)	1.9 (1.7–2.0)	↕	
Amoxicillin/potassium clavulanate	1.6 (1.5–1.8)	1.7 (1.5–1.9)	1.6 (1.4–1.7)	1.6 (1.4–1.7)	1.7 (1.5–1.8)	1.7 (1.5–1.8)	1.7 (1.5–1.8)	1.7 (1.5–1.9)	1.7 (1.6–1.9)	1.8 (1.7–2.0)	–	
Roxithromycin	1.8 (1.7–2.0)	1.6 (1.4–1.8)	1.4 (1.3–1.5)	1.3 (1.2–1.5)	1.1 (1.0–1.2)	1.1 (1.0–1.3)	1.5 (1.3–1.7)	1.4 (1.2–1.5)	1.2 (1.1–1.4)	1.4 (1.3–1.5)	↕	
Metformin	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.8 (0.8–0.9)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	1.0 (0.9–1.0)	1.2 (1.0–1.3)	1.1 (1.0–1.3)	1.2 (1.1–1.3)	1.4 (1.3–1.5)	↕	
Salbutamol	2.4 (2.2–2.6)	2.1 (1.9–2.2)	2.0 (1.8–2.1)	1.7 (1.6–1.9)	1.5 (1.4–1.6)	1.4 (1.3–1.5)	1.5 (1.4–1.6)	1.4 (1.3–1.5)	1.3 (1.2–1.5)	1.4 (1.3–1.5)	↕	
Perindopril	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.6 (0.6–0.7)	0.7 (0.7–0.8)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.7 (0.7–0.8)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	1.2 (1.1–1.3)	1.2 (1.1–1.3)	1.4 (1.2–1.5)	↕	
Esomeprazole	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	1.2 (1.1–1.3)	1.3 (1.3–1.4)	↕	
Warfarin sodium	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.1)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	1.0 (0.9–1.2)	1.1 (0.9–1.2)	1.2 (1.1–1.4)	↕	
Oxycodone	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	1.0 (0.9–1.2)	1.2 (1.1–1.3)	↕	

(continued)

Table 9.3 (continued): Most frequently prescribed medications (by CAPS generic), BEACH, 1999-00 to 2008-09

Generic drug	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)											^(b) ↕
	1999-00 (n = 104,856)	2000-01 (n = 99,307)	2001-02 (n = 96,973)	2002-03 (n = 100,987)	2003-04 (n = 98,877)	2004-05 (n = 94,386)	2005-06 (n = 101,993)	2006-07 (n = 91,805)	2007-08 (n = 95,898)	2008-09 (n = 96,688)		
Temazepam	1.4 (1.3-1.6)	1.4 (1.3-1.6)	1.3 (1.2-1.5)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	↕	
Diazepam	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.0 (0.9-1.2)	1.0 (0.9-1.2)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.2 (1.0-1.3)	—	
Irbesartan	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	↗	
Chloramphenicol eye	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.9-1.0)	1.1 (1.0-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.9 (0.9-1.0)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	—	
Atenolol	1.0 (0.9-1.2)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	—	
Meloxicam	N/A	N/A	0.0 ^F (0.0-0.1)	0.3 (0.3-0.4)	0.4 (0.3-0.5)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.7 (0.7-0.8)	0.9 (0.8-1.1)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	↗	
Simvastatin	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	1.0 (1.0-1.1)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.2 (1.0-1.3)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	—	
Fluticasone/salmeterol	N/A	0.2 (0.2-0.3)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	↗	
Levonorgestrel/ ethinylloestradiol	1.3 (1.2-1.4)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.2 (1.1-1.3)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.8 (0.8-0.9)	↕	
Cefaclor monohydrate	1.6 (1.3-2.0)	1.6 (1.4-1.8)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.0 (0.9-1.2)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-1.0)	0.8 (0.6-1.0)	0.8 (0.6-0.9)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	↕	
Tramadol	0.1 (0.0-1.1)	0.2 (0.1-0.2)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.9 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-1.1)	0.9 (0.8-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	↗	
Doxycycline hydrochloride	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.7-0.8)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.7 (0.7-0.9)	0.7 (0.7-0.8)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	—	
Ramipril	0.3 (0.3-0.4)	0.4 (0.4-0.5)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	0.7 (0.7-0.8)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	↗	

(continued)

Table 9.3 (continued): Most frequently prescribed medications (by CAPS generic), BEACH, 1999-00 to 2008-09

Generic drug	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)											^(b) ↕
	1999-00 (n = 104,856)	2000-01 (n = 99,307)	2001-02 (n = 96,973)	2002-03 (n = 100,987)	2003-04 (n = 98,877)	2004-05 (n = 94,386)	2005-06 (n = 101,993)	2006-07 (n = 91,805)	2007-08 (n = 95,898)	2008-09 (n = 96,688)		
Irbesartan/ hydrochlorothiazide	N/A	0.3 (0.2-0.4)	0.6 (0.5-0.6)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.7 (0.7-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.8 (0.7-0.8)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.8)	↕	
Thyroxine	0.5 (0.4-0.5)	0.5 (0.4-0.6)	0.5 (0.5-0.6)	0.6 (0.5-0.6)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.6 (0.6-0.7)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	0.7 (0.7-0.8)	↕	
Betamethasone topical	0.9 (0.8-0.9)	1.0 (0.9-1.2)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.8 (0.8-0.9)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.7-0.8)	↕	
Diclofenac sodium systemic	1.3 (1.1-1.4)	1.2 (1.0-1.3)	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	1.0 (0.8-1.1)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	↕	
Amlodipine	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	0.6 (0.6-0.7)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.8 (0.7-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	—	
Mometasone	0.6 (0.6-0.7)	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.6 (0.6-0.7)	0.5 (0.5-0.6)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	0.8 (0.7-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	—	
Aspirin	0.8 (0.8-1.0)	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	0.7 (0.7-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	↕	
Venlafaxine	0.2 (0.0-0.4)	0.3 (0.1-0.5)	0.3 (0.1-0.5)	0.3 (0.1-0.5)	0.4 (0.2-0.6)	0.4 (0.2-0.6)	0.4 (0.4-0.5)	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	0.6 (0.5-0.6)	0.6 (0.6-0.7)	↕	
Glilazide	0.4 (0.2-0.7)	0.5 (0.2-0.8)	0.9 (0.8-1.1)	0.4 (0.2-0.6)	0.5 (0.3-0.7)	0.4 (0.2-0.6)	0.6 (0.5-0.6)	0.5 (0.4-0.6)	0.5 (0.5-0.6)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	—	
Oxazepam	0.8 (0.6-1.1)	0.7 (0.6-0.9)	0.7 (0.5-0.9)	0.6 (0.5-0.8)	0.7 (0.5-0.9)	0.6 (0.4-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.6 (0.5-0.6)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	—	
Frusemide	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.6 (0.6-0.7)	0.6 (0.6-0.7)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	↕	
Sertraline	0.8 (0.7-0.9)	0.8 (0.7-0.8)	0.6 (0.6-0.7)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	0.7 (0.6-0.8)	0.7 (0.6-0.7)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	↕	
Candesartan cilexetil	0.1 (0.1-0.1)	0.2 (0.2-0.2)	0.2 (0.2-0.3)	0.3 (0.2-0.3)	0.3 (0.2-0.3)	0.3 (0.3-0.4)	0.4 (0.4-0.5)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	↕	

(continued)

Table 9.3 (continued): Most frequently prescribed medications (by CAPS generic), BEACH, 1999–00 to 2008–09

Generic drug	Rate per 100 encounters ^(a) (95% CI)										^(b) ↕ ↗
	1999–00 (n = 104,856)	2000–01 (n = 99,307)	2001–02 (n = 96,973)	2002–03 (n = 100,987)	2003–04 (n = 98,877)	2004–05 (n = 94,386)	2005–06 (n = 101,993)	2006–07 (n = 91,805)	2007–08 (n = 95,898)	2008–09 (n = 96,688)	
Pantoprazole	0.1 (0.0–0.4)	0.1 (0.0–0.4)	0.4 (0.2–0.6)	0.4 (0.2–0.5)	0.4 (0.2–0.6)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	↗
Influenza virus vaccine	1.5 (1.3–1.7)	1.5 (1.3–1.8)	1.5 (1.2–1.7)	1.4 (1.2–1.7)	1.2 (1.0–1.4)	0.9 (0.7–1.1)	1.1 (0.9–1.3)	0.6 (0.5–0.8)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.6 (0.4–0.7)	↘
Rosuvastatin	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0 (0.0–0.1)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	↗
Generic medication frequently prescribed in previous years											
Naproxen systemic	0.8 (0.7–0.9)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	↘
Budesonide topical nasal	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	↘
Ranitidine	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	0.6 (0.6–0.7)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	↘
Enalapril maleate	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	↘
Budesonide inhaled	0.7 (0.7–0.8)	0.6 (0.5–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	↘
Beclomethasone inhaled	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.0–0.1)	0.0 [‡] (0.0–0.0)	0.0 [‡] (0.0–0.0)	↘
Total prescribed medications	93.8 (91.5–96.2)	92.3 (89.9–94.7)	88.0 (85.6–90.4)	84.3 (81.8–86.9)	86.0 (83.6–88.5)	83.4 (81.2–85.5)	85.8 (83.3–88.4)	83.3 (81.0–85.5)	82.4 (80.3–84.6)	86.4 (84.1–88.6)	↘

(a) Column will not add to 100, as multiple prescriptions could be written at each encounter.

(b) The direction and type of change from 1999–00 to 2008–09 is indicated for each result: ↗↘ indicates a statistically significant change, ↕ indicates a marginal change and — indicates there was no change.

‡ Rates are reported to one decimal place. This indicates that the rate is < 0.05 per 100 encounters.

Note: CI—confidence interval; N/A—not applicable (that is, drug was not available at that time).

Table 9.4: Number of repeats for prescribed medications, BEACH, 1999-00 to 2008-09

Number of repeats	Per cent of prescriptions (95% CI) ^(a)											^(b) ↕ ↘ ↙
	1999-00 (n = 104,856)	2000-01 (n = 99,307)	2001-02 (n = 96,973)	2002-03 (n = 100,987)	2003-04 (n = 98,877)	2004-05 (n = 94,386)	2005-06 (n = 101,993)	2006-07 (n = 91,805)	2007-08 (n = 95,898)	2008-09 (n = 96,688)		
No repeats	31.9 (30.2-33.7)	33.0 (31.2-34.8)	38.3 (36.7-39.4)	38.0 (36.4-39.6)	37.8 (36.2-39.3)	38.5 (36.8-40.2)	35.9 (34.4-37.5)	35.2 (33.7-36.7)	34.5 (33.1-35.9)	34.0 (32.8-35.2)	§	
One repeat	20.4 (19.5-21.3)	20.3 (19.3-21.4)	17.6 (16.8-18.3)	17.7 (16.8-18.6)	16.6 (15.8-17.3)	17.6 (16.7-18.4)	17.6 (16.8-18.4)	16.4 (15.6-17.1)	16.8 (16.0-17.6)	17.1 (16.1-18.0)	↘	
Two repeats	16.3 (15.2-17.4)	15.2 (14.1-16.3)	13.1 (12.3-14.0)	12.0 (11.0-13.0)	11.4 (10.6-12.1)	10.6 (10.0-11.3)	10.1 (9.4-10.9)	10.5 (9.6-11.4)	10.2 (9.3-11.1)	9.7 (9.0-10.3)	↘	
Three or four repeats	4.3 (3.7-4.8)	4.4 (4.0-4.8)	4.5 (4.1-4.9)	4.8 (4.4-5.1)	5.0 (4.7-5.4)	4.8 (4.4-5.2)	4.5 (3.8-5.2)	4.8 (4.3-5.3)	4.6 (4.0-5.2)	4.4 (4.0-4.8)	—	
Five repeats	26.8 (25.3-28.3)	26.9 (25.6-28.2)	26.4 (25.2-27.7)	27.4 (26.0-28.7)	29.2 (27.9-30.4)	28.3 (27.0-29.6)	31.7 (30.3-33.1)	33.0 (31.7-34.4)	33.8 (32.5-35.1)	34.8 (33.6-36.0)	↗	
Six or more repeats	0.3 (0.0-0.6)	0.1 (0.1-0.2)	0.0 (0.0-0.0)	0.2 (0.1-0.2)	0.1 (0.1-0.2)	0.2 (0.1-0.3)	0.1 (0.1-0.2)	0.1 (0.1-0.2)	0.1 (0.1-0.2)	0.1 (0.1-0.2)	—	

(a) Missing data removed.

(b) The direction and type of change from 1999-00 to 2008-09 is indicated for each result: ↗↘ indicates a statistically significant change, § indicates a non-linear significant or marginal change, and — indicates there was no change.

Note: CI—confidence interval. Results are reported to one decimal place, a result of 0.0 indicates that the prescription accounted for < 0.05%.

9.2 Medications supplied by GPs

Rates of GP-supplied medications per 100 encounters and per 100 problems managed increased significantly in the 10-year period. Rates rose from 6.9 per 100 encounters in 1999–00 to 11.0 in 2008–09 (Table 9.1a). The extrapolated national effect of this change is 5.3 million more medications supplied directly to the patient by GPs in 2008–09 than in 1999–00. Per 100 problems managed, the rates increased from 4.7 to 7.1 between the two data periods (Table 9.1b).

Table 9.5 shows rates of generic medications most frequently supplied by GPs between 1999–00 and 2008–09. The majority of these medications were vaccines and rates for most of them increased significantly over the period. The supply of pneumococcal vaccine rose significantly from 0.1 per 100 encounters in 1999–00 to 0.7 per 100 in 2008–09. The extrapolated national effect of this change is that pneumococcal vaccine was supplied 680,000 more times in 2008–09 than in 1999–00. The peak for papillomavirus vaccine can be seen in 2007–08 with one supplied per 100 encounters. The rate dropped significantly in 2008–09 to 0.6 per 100 encounters on average. For the influenza vaccine, the move away from prescribing towards GP supply was evident in the significant increase in its supply by GPs (Table 9.5) that coincided with the significant decrease in its prescribing rates (Table 9.3). This change follows federal government policy starting in 2001 which made the vaccine available free-of-charge to all Australians aged 65 years and over, to Indigenous people aged 50 years and older and to younger Indigenous persons with health risks. The vaccines can be ordered by the GP directly from the supplier.

9.3 Medications advised for over-the-counter purchase

The overall rate of advised OTC medications showed no significant change over the period (Table 9.1a). Table 9.6 shows the most commonly advised OTC medications at the generic level. The rate of advised sodium chloride for topical nasal use rose significantly from <0.05 per 100 encounters in 1999–00 to 0.2 in 2008–09. The extrapolated national effect of this change is that this medication was advised by GPs 180,000 more times in 2008–09 than in 1999–00. Rates of advised cetirizine also rose significantly.

Table 9.5: Medications most frequently supplied by GPs, BEACH, 1999–00 to 2008–09

Generic medication	Rate per 100 encounters (95% CI)										^(e) ↕
	1999–00 (n = 104,856)	2000–01 (n = 99,307)	2001–02 (n = 96,973)	2002–03 (n = 100,987)	2003–04 (n = 98,877)	2004–05 (n = 94,386)	2005–06 (n = 101,993)	2006–07 (n = 91,805)	2007–08 (n = 95,898)	2008–09 (n = 96,688)	
Influenza virus vaccine	0.7 (0.5–0.9)	0.6 (0.4–0.7)	0.9 (0.7–1.1)	0.7 (0.5–0.9)	1.2 (0.9–1.4)	1.2 (0.9–1.6)	1.6 (1.3–1.8)	2.0 (1.6–2.3)	1.5 (1.2–1.7)	2.3 (2.0–2.7)	↕
Pneumococcal vaccine	0.1 (0.0–0.1)	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.1)	0.1 (0.0–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.9 (0.8–1.0)	0.6 (0.6–0.7)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.7 (0.6–0.8)	↕
Papillomavirus vaccine	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	1.0 (0.9–1.1)	0.6 (0.6–0.7)	§
Vitamin B12 (cobalamin)	0.1 (0.0–0.1)	0.1 (0.0–0.1)	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.1)	0.1 (0.0–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.4 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	↕
Mumps/measles/rubella vaccine	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	↕
Diph/pert/tetanus/Hep B/Polio/Hib vaccine	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	0.1 (0.0–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	↕
Rotavirus vaccine	N/A	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	↕
Haemophilus B vaccine	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	↕
ADT–CDT vaccine (diphtheria–tetanus)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	—
Polio vaccine oral sabin/injection	0.4 (0.3–0.5)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.3 (0.3–0.4)	0.4 (0.4–0.5)	0.5 (0.4–0.5)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	↕
Meningitis vaccine	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	↕
Total GP-supplied medications	6.9 (6.0–7.7)	6.9 (5.9–7.9)	7.6 (6.6–8.7)	9.3 (8.0–10.6)	8.6 (7.6–9.6)	8.1 (7.3–8.8)	8.8 (8.2–9.5)	8.9 (8.2–8.6)	10.1 (9.5–10.7)	11.0 (10.3–11.8)	↕

(a) The direction and type of change from 1999–00 to 2008–09 is indicated for each result: ↕ indicates a statistically significant change, ↗ indicates a marginal change, § indicates a non-linear significant change, and — indicates there was no change.

† Rates are reported to one decimal place. This indicates that the rate is < 0.05 per 100 encounters.

Note: CI—confidence interval. N/A—not applicable (that is, drug was not available at that time).

Table 9.6: Most frequently advised over-the-counter medications, BEACH, 1999–00 to 2008–09

Generic medication	Rate per 100 encounters (95% CI)										^(a)
	1999–00 (n = 104,856)	2000–01 (n = 99,307)	2001–02 (n = 96,973)	2002–03 (n = 100,987)	2003–04 (n = 98,877)	2004–05 (n = 94,386)	2005–06 (n = 101,993)	2006–07 (n = 91,805)	2007–08 (n = 95,898)	2008–09 (n = 96,688)	
Paracetamol	2.5 (2.2–2.8)	2.4 (2.0–2.7)	2.1 (1.9–2.4)	2.6 (2.3–2.9)	2.5 (2.1–2.8)	2.3 (2.0–2.6)	2.5 (2.2–2.8)	2.4 (2.1–2.7)	2.6 (2.2–2.9)	2.3 (2.0–2.6)	↔
Ibuprofen	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.7 (0.5–0.8)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.5 (0.5–0.6)	0.6 (0.5–0.7)	0.5 (0.4–0.6)	↑
Diclofenac diethyl topical	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.2)	↔
Sodium chloride topical nasal	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	0.1 (0.0–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	↗
Aspirin	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	↔
Sodium/potassium/citric/ glucose rehydration	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	↔
Clotrimazole topical	0.2 (0.0–0.4)	0.2 (0.0–0.4)	0.2 (0.0–0.5)	0.2 (0.0–0.4)	0.2 (0.0–0.4)	0.2 (0.0–0.4)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	↔
Cetirizine	0.0 [†] (0.0–0.0)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	↗
Paracetamol–codeine	0.3 (0.2–0.4)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	↘
Loratadine	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.3 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.1–0.2)	0.2 (0.2–0.3)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	↘
Fexofenadine	0.1 (0.0–0.9)	0.1 (0.0–0.5)	0.1 (0.0–0.5)	0.1 (0.0–0.4)	0.1 (0.0–0.5)	0.2 (0.0–0.5)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.1)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	0.1 (0.1–0.2)	↔
Total advised medications	9.4 (8.7–10.1)	9.0 (8.2–9.7)	8.9 (8.2–9.6)	10.2 (9.3–11.1)	9.8 (9.0–10.5)	10.1 (9.2–10.9)	9.8 (9.0–10.5)	9.4 (8.7–10.1)	10.1 (9.3–10.9)	8.9 (8.3–9.4)	↔

(a) The direction and type of change from 1999–00 to 2008–09 is indicated for each result. ↗↘ indicates a statistically significant change, ↕↔ indicates a marginal change, and — indicates there was no change. † Rates are reported to one decimal place. This indicates that the rate is < 0.05 per 100 encounters.

Note: CI—confidence interval.