

SBUHB Performance against National Prescribing Indicators

Quarter 1 2024–2025

NATIONAL PRESCRIBING INDICATORS

The All Wales Medicines Strategy Group endorse a number of National Prescribing indicators annually, which are used to highlight therapeutic priorities for NHS Wales and compare the ways in which different prescribers and organisations use particular medicines or groups of medicines. They are developed to promote rational prescribing of medicines in Wales. The choice of indicators is evidence-based and the indicators allow health boards, primary care clusters, GP practices and prescribers to compare their current prescribing practice against an agreed standard of quality. The Summary table and graphs below show Swansea Bay's performance against quality, safety and efficiency indicators for the latest quarter data available (Quarter 1, 2024/25).

Summary table

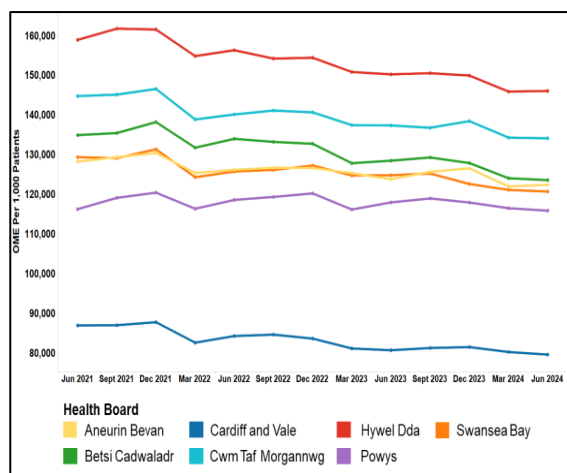
Prescribing Indicator	2023/24 Qtr 1	2024/25 Qtr 1	% Change	Rank in Wales HB 1- Best 7- Worst
Opioid burden OME per 1,000 patients	124,883	120,760	-3.30%	3
High strength opioid UDG OME per 1,000 patients	14,696	12,778	-13.0%	2
Tramadol DDDs per 1,000 patients	389	349	-10.3%	3
Gabapentin and pregabalin DDDs per 1,000 patients	1,603	1,509	-5.87%	3
Percentage of patients with AF prescribed anticoagulant	93.5%	96.0%	2.67%	1
Percentage of patients received an anticoagulant review	67.7%	65.8%	-2.79%	1
Percentage of patients prescribed antiplatelet monotherapy	3.33%	2.84%	-14.8%	3
Antibacterial items per 1,000 STAR-Pus*	294	293	-0.43%	6
4C Antibacterial items per 1,000 patients	8.09	7.18	-11.2%	2
DPIs and SMLs as a percentage of all inhalers	28.2	36.9	30.7%	5
Hypnotics and anxiolytics ADQs per 1,000 STAR-Pus	2,176	1,961	-9.91%	4
Low value for Prescribing spend (£) per 1,000 patients	214	191	-10.8%	3

*Compared to Qtr 4 2019-20

Opioid burden DDDs per 1,000 patients

There is a lack of evidence to support strong clinical recommendation for long term use of opioids in chronic non-cancer pain. The indicator promotes a prudent approach to prescribing taking into account indication, risks and benefits, to encourage timely review of patients with chronic pain indications. Data demonstrates a 3.3% reduction in opioid burden for SBU patients, placing the Health Board in the top 3 in Wales for this indicator

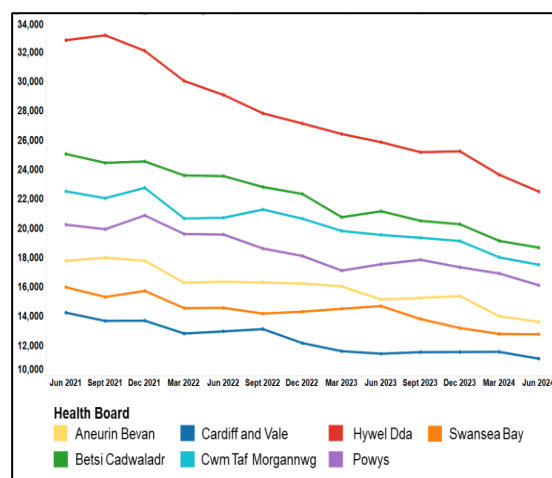
	2023-2024 Qtr 1	2024-2025 Qtr 1	% Change
Betsi Cadwaladr	128,547	123,651	-3.81%
Swansea Bay	124,883	120,760	-3.30%
Hywel Dda	150,292	146,103	-2.79%
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	137,417	134,183	-2.35%
Powys	118,032	115,943	-1.77%
Cardiff and Vale	80,791	79,688	-1.37%
Aneurin Bevan	123,885	122,482	-1.13%
Wales	122,890	119,779	-2.53%



High strength opioids DDDs per 1,000 patients

Work progresses in this area to encourage review of patients prescribed high strength opioids by GPs via the Prescribing Management Scheme (PMS) and cluster prescribing leads meetings. The analgesic stewardship work aims to highlight appropriate prescribing across all sectors. SBU continued to show a decreasing quarterly trend for this indicator resulting in the HB being the second best performing in Wales.

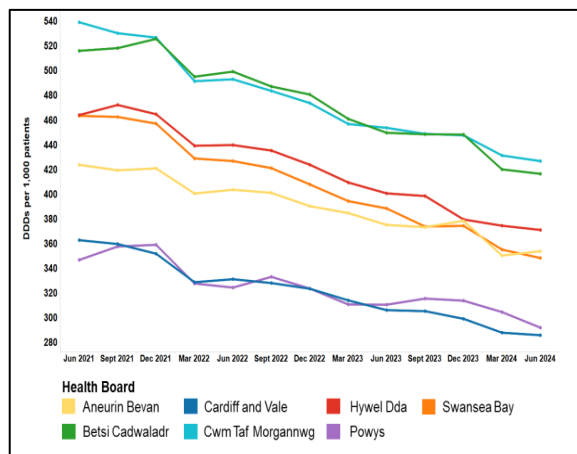
	2023-2024 Qtr 1	2024-2025 Qtr 1	% Change
Swansea Bay	14,696	12,778	-13.0%
Hywel Dda	25,869	22,507	-13.0%
Betsi Cadwaladr	21,162	18,684	-11.7%
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	19,547	17,514	-10.4%
Aneurin Bevan	15,149	13,627	-10.0%
Powys	17,552	16,118	-8.17%
Cardiff and Vale	11,451	11,112	-2.96%
Wales	17,834	15,948	-10.6%



Tramadol DDDs per 1,000 patients

Whilst there is a recognised place in pain management for tramadol, there are concerns regarding the risks associated with dependence, diversion and misuse and adverse drug reactions. Swansea Bay continues to make good progress in reducing prescribing in line with the rest of Wales.

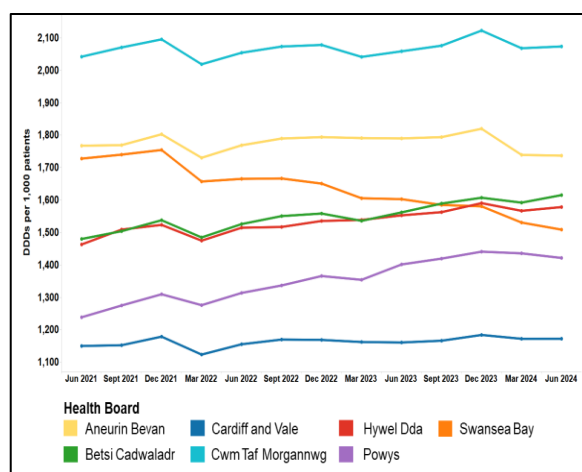
	2023–2024 Qtr 1	2024–2025 Qtr 1	% Change
Swansea Bay	389	349	-10.3%
Betsi Cadwaladr	450	417	-7.38%
Hywel Dda	401	371	-7.38%
Cardiff and Vale	306	286	-6.62%
Powys	311	292	-5.99%
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	454	427	-5.93%
Aneurin Bevan	375	354	-5.66%
Wales	393	366	-7.06%



Gabapentin and pregabalin DDDs per 1,000 patients

These drugs have a well defined role in the treatment of epilepsy and neuropathic pain, with pregabalin also used for generalised anxiety disorder. However both drugs have the potential for dependence forming, diversion, misuse and adverse drug reactions. Ongoing review of patients prescribed these drugs for neuropathic pain is required to check for efficacy and side effects. This is supported locally through discussion at Cluster Prescribing Leads meetings, engagement with acute pain teams and the prescribing management scheme. SBU demonstrated the largest percentage change in this indicator compared with the same quarter last year, making it the 3rd best performing HB with regard this measure. Also included in PMS.

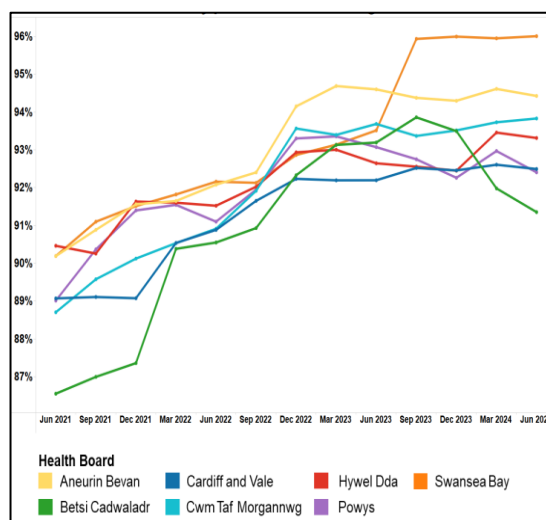
	2023–2024 Qtr 1	2024–2025 Qtr 1	% Change
Swansea Bay	1,603	1,509	-5.87%
Aneurin Bevan	1,790	1,737	-2.96%
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	2,059	2,074	0.73%
Cardiff and Vale	1,161	1,172	0.99%
Powys	1,401	1,421	1.43%
Hywel Dda	1,553	1,578	1.65%
Betsi Cadwaladr	1,562	1,615	3.41%
Wales	1,608	1,606	-0.15%



Percentage of patients with AF and a CHA2DS2-VASc score of 2 or more who are currently prescribed an anticoagulant

The purpose of this indicator is to encourage the appropriate use of anticoagulants in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF). The CHA2DS2-VASc risk stratification score calculates stroke risk of patients with AF. Adults with non-valvular AF and a CHA2DS2-VASc score of 2 or above are at a much higher risk of having a stroke than the general population, however anticoagulation therapy can help to prevent strokes by reducing the likelihood of a blood clot forming. AF causes around 20% of strokes, however this can be reduced by about two thirds if people are anticoagulated. SBU are the best performing Health Board in Wales for this indicator.

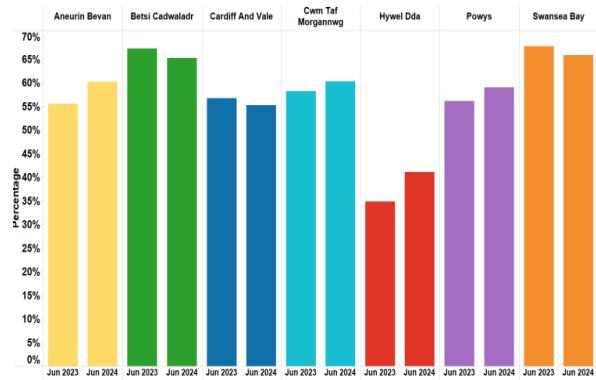
	2023-2024 Qtr 1	2024-2025 Qtr 1	% Change
Swansea Bay	93.5%	96.0%	2.67%
Hywel Dda	92.6%	93.3%	0.72%
Cardiff and Vale	92.2%	92.5%	0.32%
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	93.7%	93.8%	0.15%
Aneurin Bevan	94.6%	94.4%	-0.18%
Powys	93.1%	92.4%	-0.72%
Betsi Cadwaladr	93.2%	91.4%	-1.98%
Wales	93.3%	93.3%	-0.04%



Percentage of patients who are currently prescribed an anticoagulant and have received an anticoagulant review within the last 12 months

Patients with AF who are prescribed an anticoagulant should have a review of their treatment annually. Anticoagulants are associated with drug-drug and drug-food interactions that may increase the risk of serious bleeding or diminish stroke prevention. A review of treatment will reinforce the importance of adherence and enable patients to be reminded of potential interactions. While SBU saw a fall in this measure over the last 12 months, we remain the best performing Health Board in Wales for this indicator.

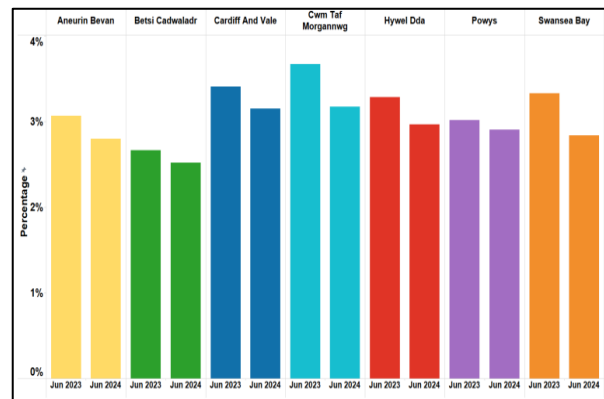
	2023–2024 June 2023	2024–2025 June 2024	% Change
Hywel Dda	34.9%	41.1%	18.0%
Aneurin Bevan	55.5%	60.2%	8.41%
Powys	56.2%	59.1%	5.20%
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	58.2%	60.3%	3.63%
Cardiff and Vale	56.7%	55.3%	-2.51%
Swansea Bay	67.7%	65.8%	-2.79%
Betsi Cadwaladr	67.3%	65.3%	-2.95%
Wales	57.0%	58.4%	2.45%



Patients who are prescribed antiplatelet monotherapy

Antiplatelet medication, i.e. aspirin or clopidogrel, is no longer recommended in patients with AF. The purpose of this indicator is to discourage the inappropriate use of antiplatelet monotherapy in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF). SBU saw a year-on-year reduction in this measure.

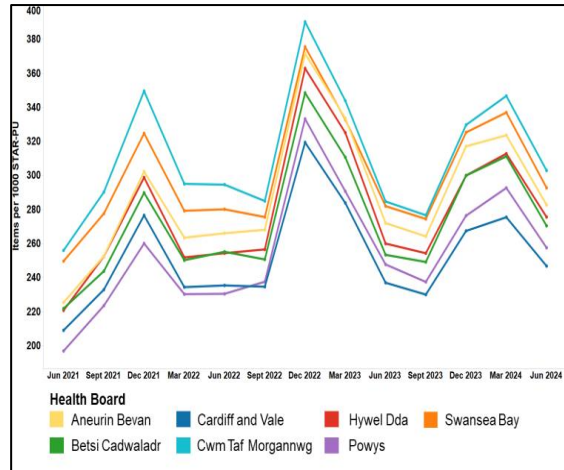
	2023–2024 June 2023	2024–2025 June 2024	% Change
Swansea Bay	3.33%	2.84%	-14.8%
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	3.67%	3.17%	-13.5%
Hywel Dda	3.29%	2.97%	-9.73%
Aneurin Bevan	3.07%	2.80%	-8.87%
Cardiff and Vale	3.41%	3.15%	-7.58%
Betsi Cadwaladr	2.67%	2.52%	-5.43%
Powys	3.01%	2.91%	-3.63%
Wales	3.17%	2.87%	-9.45%



Antibacterial items per 1,000 STAR-Pus

This indicator aims to encourage the appropriate prescribing of antibiotics in primary care to minimise resistance. Swansea Bay is the 2nd highest prescribing HB in Wales. Work is supported and driven by various HB groups and Cluster Prescribing Leads led by the Consultant Antimicrobial pharmacist. GPs are encouraged to review prescribing as part of PMS.

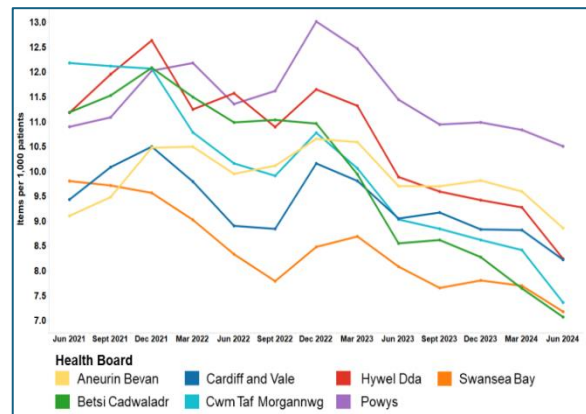
	2019–2020 Qtr 1	2024–2025 Qtr 1	% Change
Swansea Bay	294	293	-0.43%
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	303	303	0.04%
Hywel Dda	274	276	0.65%
Cardiff and Vale	243	247	1.49%
Betsi Cadwaladr	260	270	4.07%
Aneurin Bevan	272	283	4.09%
Powys	227	258	13.4%
Wales	270	276	2.37%



4C Antibacterial items per 1,000 patients

The use of 4C antibacterials (co-amoxiclav, cephalosproins, fluoroquinolones and clindamycin) can lead to resistance and an increased risk of *C difficile*, MRSA and resistant UTIs. SBUHB are the second lowest prescribers in Wales and continue to make reductions. This area of prescribing is a focus at Cluster Prescribing Leads and various HB wide antimicrobial stewardship groups. SBU work in this area was highlighted as a good practice exemplar in the most recent prescribing indicators national communication. Included in PMS for GPs to review prescribing.

	2023–2024 Qtr 1	2024–2025 Qtr 1	% Change
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	9.04	7.37	-18.5%
Betsi Cadwaladr	8.56	7.07	-17.3%
Hywel Dda	9.89	8.25	-16.6%
Swansea Bay	8.09	7.18	-11.2%
Cardiff and Vale	9.06	8.23	-9.15%
Aneurin Bevan	9.71	8.87	-8.70%
Powys	11.4	10.5	-8.20%
Wales	9.16	7.95	-13.2%

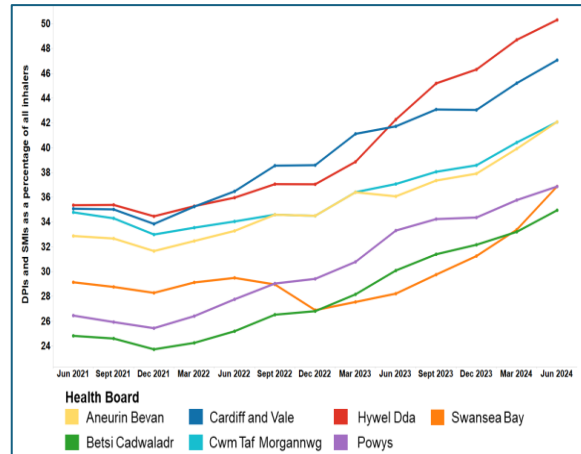


DPIs and SMIs as a percentage of all inhalers

This indicator aims to encourage increased prescribing of 'low' global warming potential (GWP) inhalers such as dry powder inhalers (DPI) and soft mist inhalers (SMI), to reduce the overall carbon footprint of medicines. Metered dose inhalers are estimated to be responsible for 4% of the NHS's entire carbon footprint. The target is to increase prescribing of DPIs and SMIs to 80% by 2025.

Swansea Bay are making progress in this area and have seen a 31% improvement over the last year. The Medicines Management Team continues to work closely with primary care to provide education to GPs and practice nurses, promoting a whole system approach across sectors. Targeted reviews are included within PMS.

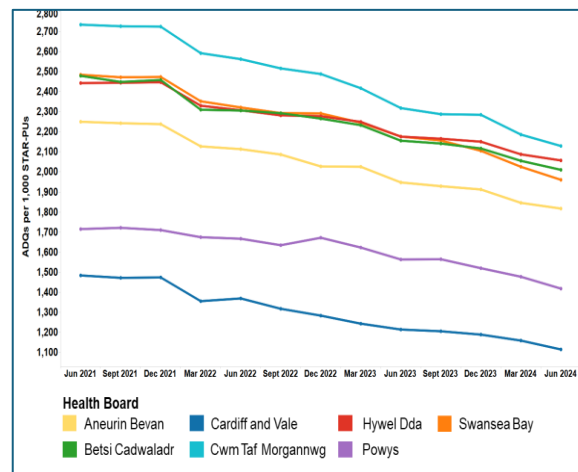
	2023–2024 Qtr 1	2024–2025 Qtr 1	% Change
Swansea Bay	28.2	36.9	30.7%
Hywel Dda	42.3	50.3	19.0%
Aneurin Bevan	36.1	42.1	16.7%
Betsi Cadwaladr	30.1	35.0	16.2%
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	37.1	42.1	13.5%
Cardiff and Vale	41.7	47.1	12.8%
Powys	33.3	36.9	10.7%
Wales	35.1	41.0	16.8%



Hypnotics and anxiolytics ADQs per 1,000 STAR-Pus

This indicator encourages a reduction in the inappropriate prescribing of hypnotics and anxiolytics, which can contribute to problems of physical and psychological dependence and may mask underlying depression. Swansea Bay continues to make reductions in this area. Another priority area for GPs within PMS.

	2023–2024 Qtr 1	2024–2025 Qtr 1	% Change
Swansea Bay	2,176	1,961	-9.91%
Powys	1,563	1,418	-9.29%
Cardiff and Vale	1,214	1,115	-8.18%
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	2,318	2,129	-8.15%
Betsi Cadwaladr	2,155	2,010	-6.74%
Aneurin Bevan	1,947	1,817	-6.68%
Hywel Dda	2,176	2,057	-5.46%
Wales	1,984	1,837	-7.43%



Low value for Prescribing spend (£) per 1,000 patients

The aim of this indicator is to reduce the prescribing of items considered as not suitable for routine prescribing (e.g. co-proxamol, lidocaine plasters, omega 3, liothyronine). Swansea Bay data demonstrates the highest percentage reduction for this measure over the last 12 months, placing SBU in the top 3 performing HB for this indication.

	2023–2024 Qtr 1	2024–2025 Qtr 1	% Change
Swansea Bay	214	191	-10.8%
Hywel Dda	314	293	-6.68%
Cwm Taf Morgannwg	278	266	-4.27%
Aneurin Bevan	321	318	-1.01%
Cardiff and Vale	187	189	0.78%
Betsi Cadwaladr	176	195	10.5%
Powys	156	183	17.6%
Wales	241	238	-0.95%

