

CHAPTER 11

Prescribing in Primary Care

11.1 Prescribing of Generic Drugs

Generic drugs are those prescribed using their scientific name, rather than a trade name. The 'generic' version of a drug can be dispensed by the pharmacist in place of an equivalent more expensive branded drug. If there is no generic version, the pharmacist can dispense the cheapest form of the drug. The quality of the generic form of the drug is monitored to guarantee the highest standards. Generic prescribing can provide an excellent cost-saving to the NHS.

Not every drug can be prescribed generically. Figure 11.1 shows that in Barnsley and Doncaster the percentage of items prescribed generically has increased over the last two years. Barnsley's HImP includes a target to increase to 72% the rate of generic prescribing by 2002.

11.2 Drugs of Limited Clinical Value

For the purposes of this indicator, those products considered to be of limited clinical value are based on the list produced by the Audit Commission for their report, *A prescription for improvement*, modified in the light of more recent knowledge and consensus (the list is agreed nationally).

Overall, the aim should be to reduce this level to as little as possible (see figure 11.2). Locally it appears to be heading in the right direction, against the national trend.

11.3 Modified Release Products

Modified release preparations are often more expensive than standard forms of a drug, but with little extra benefit. Again, the aim is to reduce the value to as little as possible (figure 11.3) and rates of prescribing by Doncaster GPs seem to be falling faster, particularly in PCT Central, than those in Barnsley and Rotherham.

11.4 Combination Products

By prescribing drugs separately, doctors can reduce the cost of treatment with little change in the effect. In figure 11.4, the aim is to lower the value as much as possible.

11.5 Inhaled Corticosteroids

In the treatment of asthma, it is now recommended that inhaled steroid preparations are prescribed as 'preventers'. However, some forms of the inhalers are much more expensive. This indicator relates to the cost per dose and will be lower if less expensive preparations are prescribed/dispensed. Figure 11.5 shows a remarkable picture of consistency.

11.6 Antibiotic Prescribing

There is concern that antibiotics are being prescribed too much, leading to resistance in bacteria. Data shown in figure 11.6. do not give any evidence of a downward trend.

See also sections 5.3 and 5.4 for prescribing related to mental health.

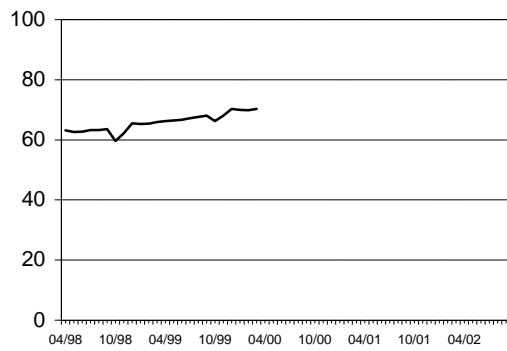
Figure 11.1 - Percentage of Generic Prescribing

Percentage of all items prescribed generically

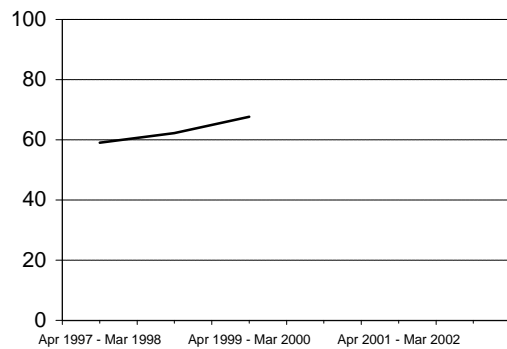
Target: Barnsley: To increase the rate of generic prescribing to 72% by 2002

Source: Prescription Pricing Authority

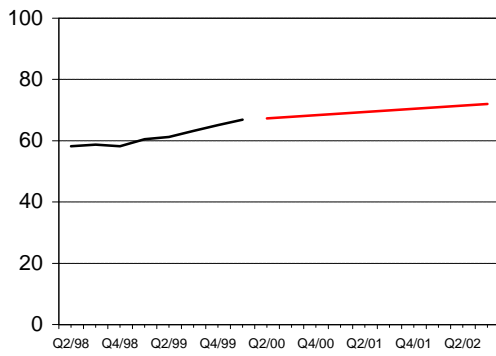
England & Wales



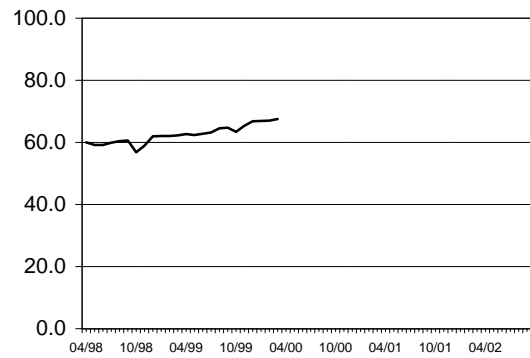
Trent Region



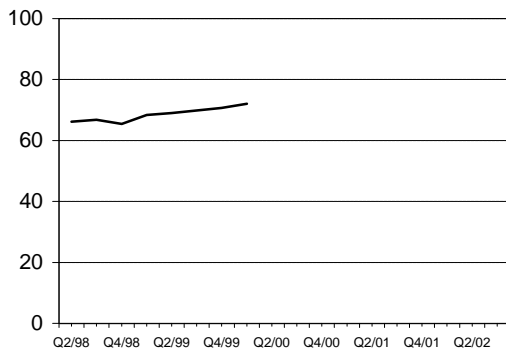
Barnsley HA



Doncaster HA

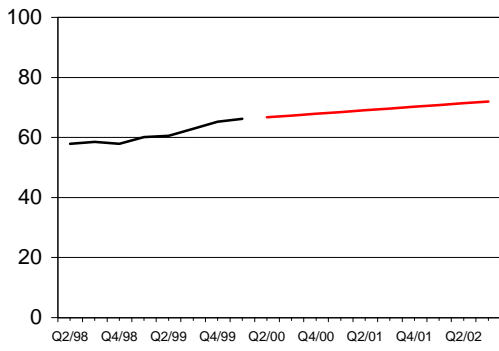


Rotherham HA

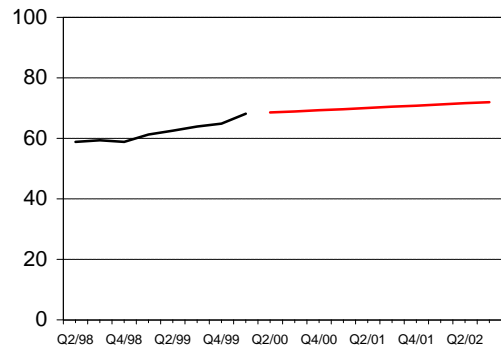


— Percentage
 — HImP Target (where appropriate)

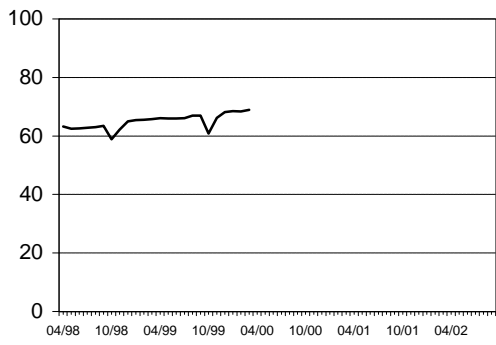
Barnsley East PCG



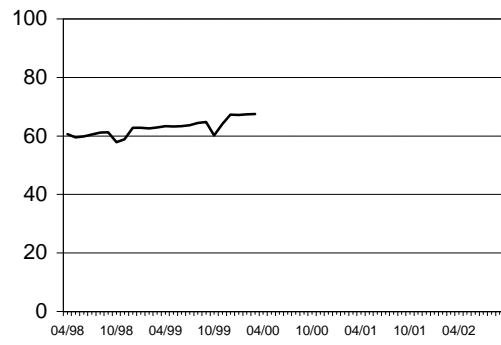
Barnsley West PCG



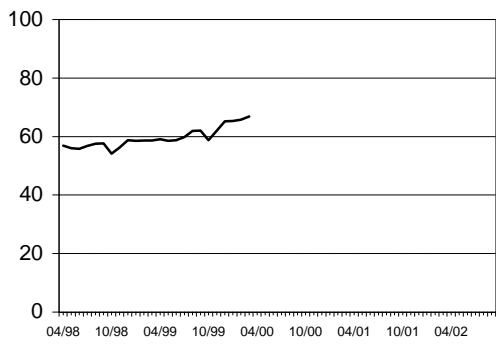
Doncaster Central PCT



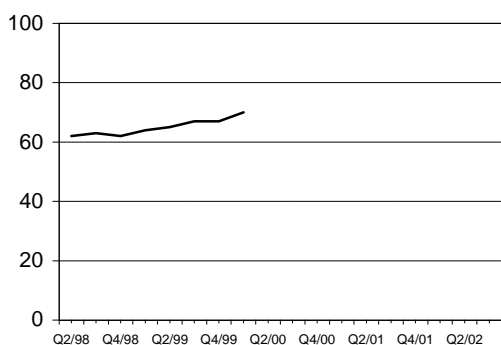
Doncaster East PCG



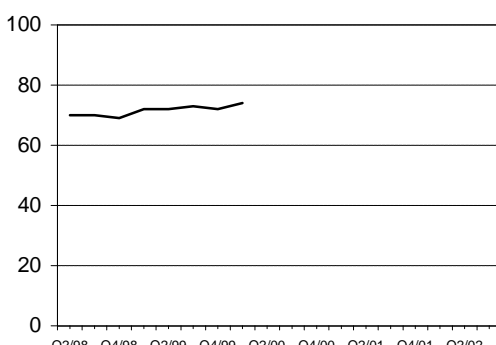
Doncaster West PCG



Rother Valley PCG



Rotherham PCG



Wentworth PCG

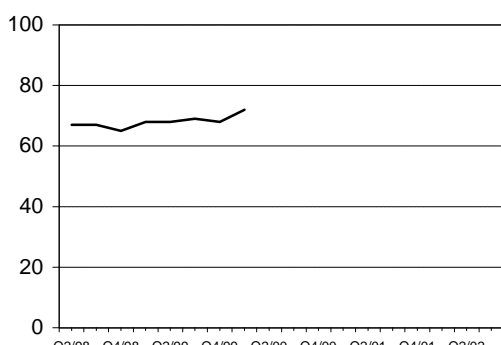


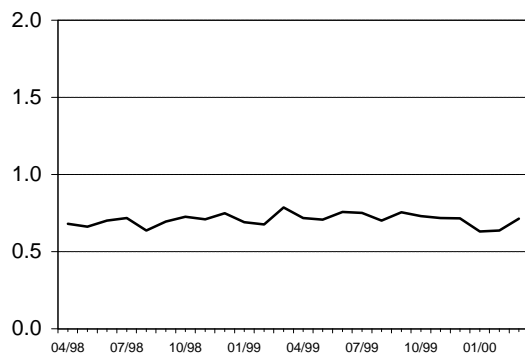
Figure 11.2 - Prescription Rates for Drugs of Limited Clinical Value

Cost per patient unit

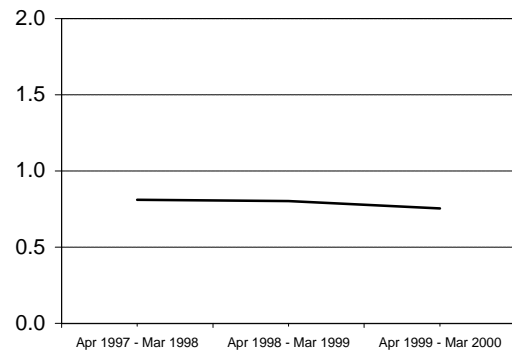
Target: Barnsley: Move towards the Trent average position.

Source: Prescription Pricing Authority

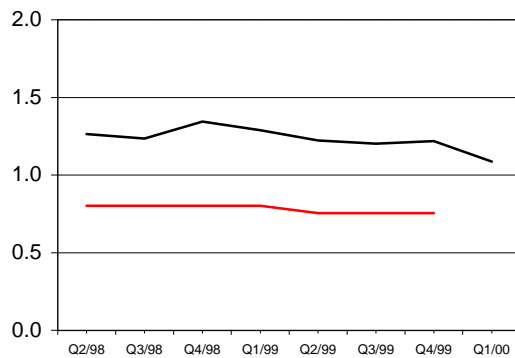
England & Wales



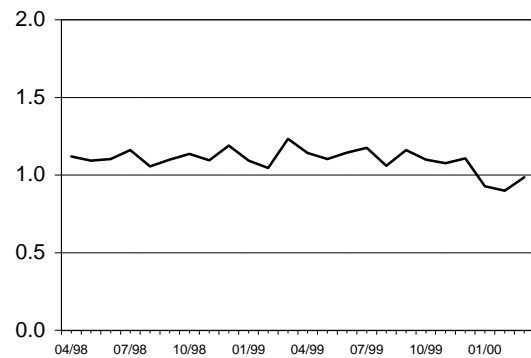
Trent Region



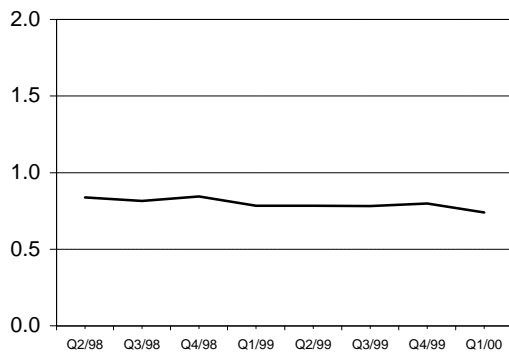
Barnsley HA



Doncaster HA

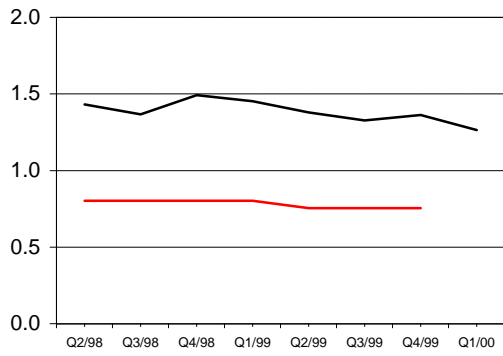


Rotherham HA

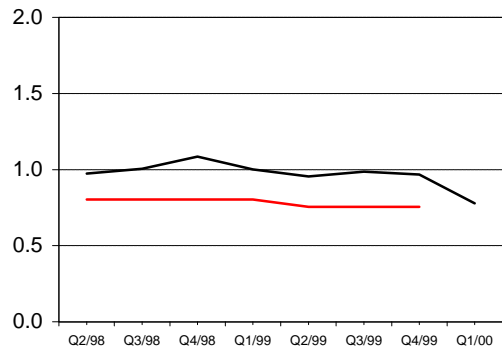


— Annual NIC/PU
— HImP Target (where appropriate)

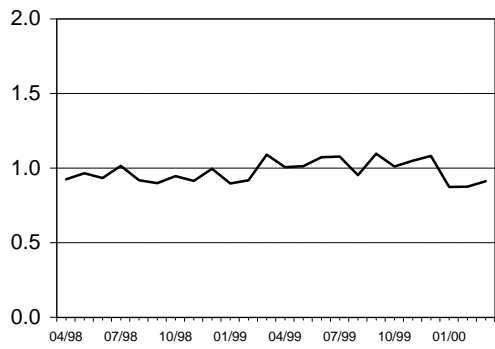
Barnsley East PCG



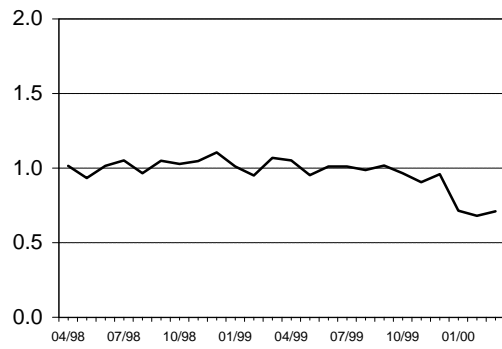
Barnsley West PCG



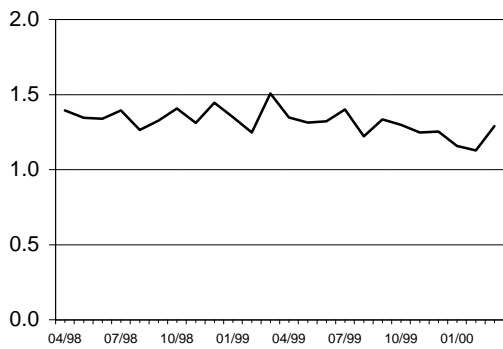
Doncaster Central PCT



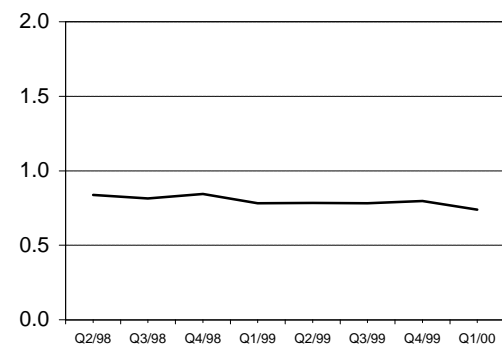
Doncaster East PCG



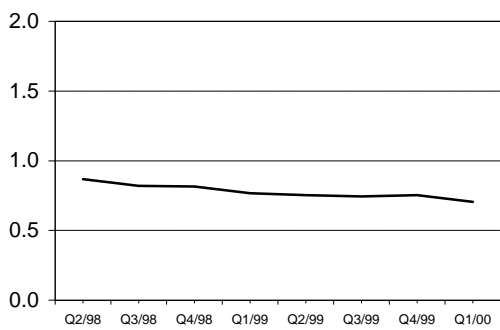
Doncaster West PCG



Rother Valley PCG



Rotherham PCG



Wentworth PCG

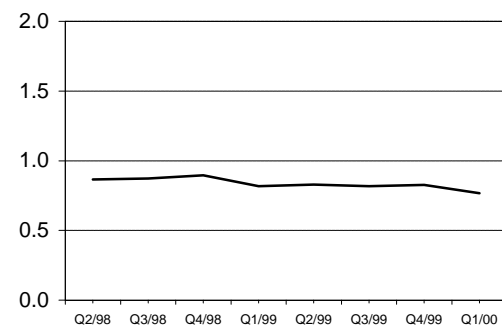


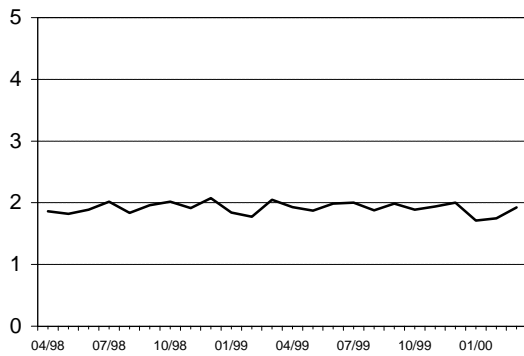
Figure 11.3 - Prescription Rates for Modified Release Drugs

Cost per patient unit

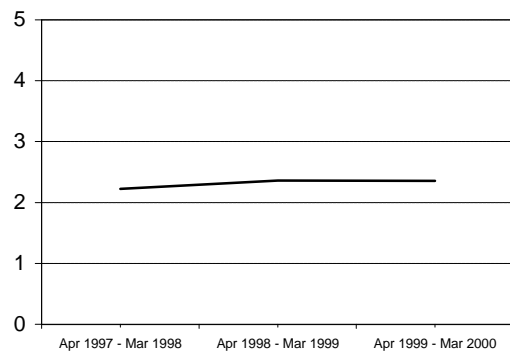
Target: Barnsley: Move towards the Trent average position.

Source: Prescription Pricing Authority

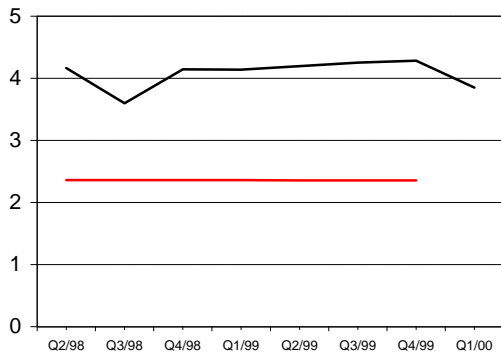
England & Wales



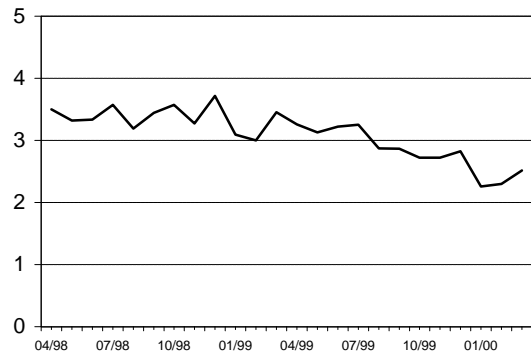
Trent Region



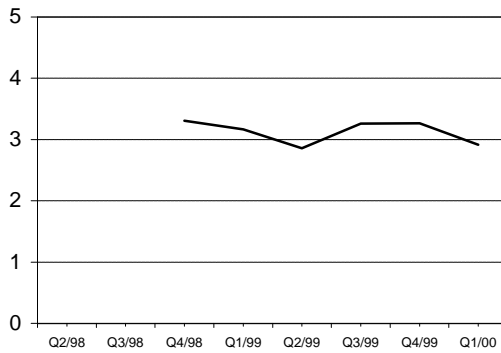
Barnsley HA



Doncaster HA

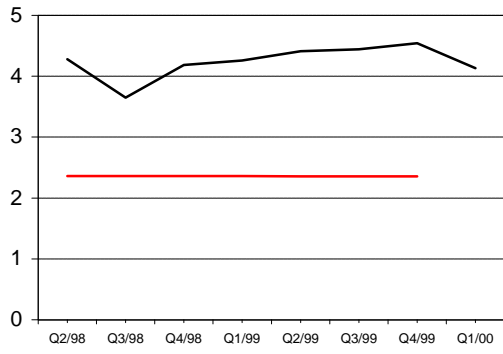


Rotherham HA

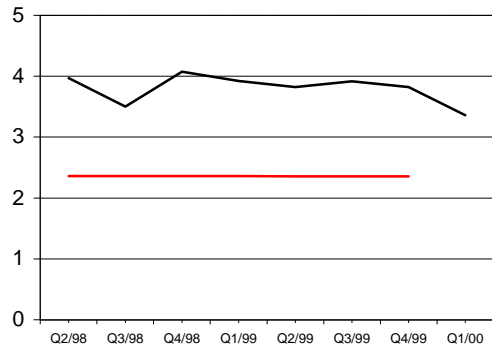


— Annual NIC/PU
 — HImP Target (where appropriate)

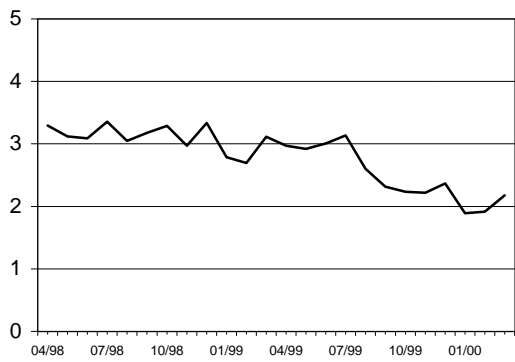
Barnsley East PCG



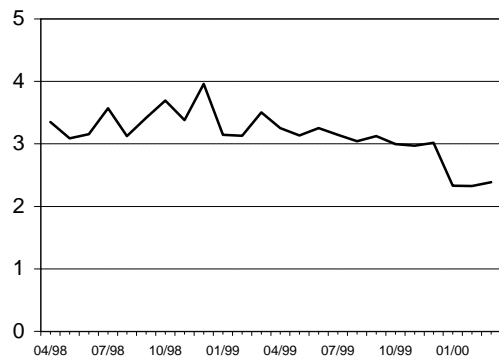
Barnsley West PCG



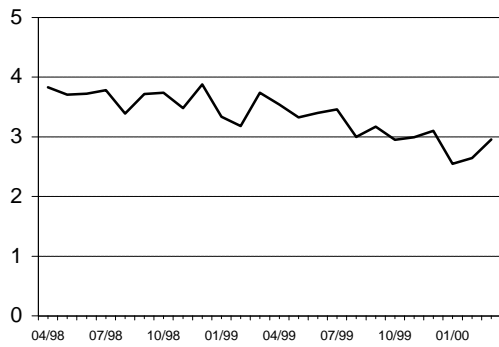
Doncaster Central PCT



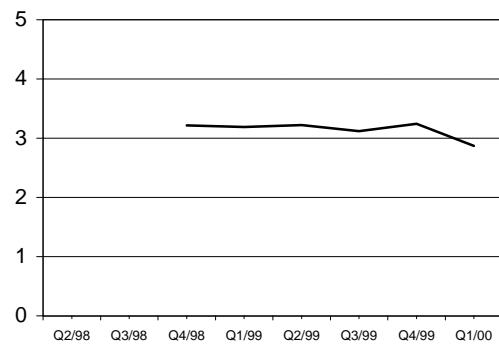
Doncaster East PCG



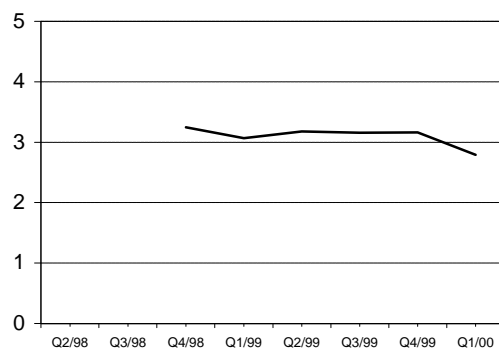
Doncaster West PCG



Rother Valley PCG



Rotherham PCG



Wentworth PCG

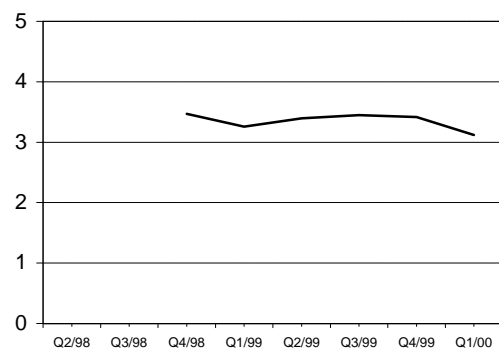


Figure 11.4 - Prescription Rates for Combination Products

Cost per patient unit

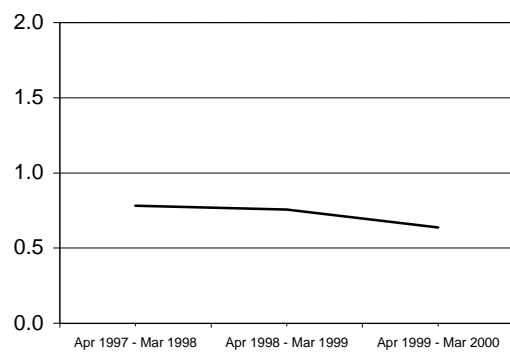
Target: Barnsley: Move towards the Trent average position.

Source: Prescription Pricing Authority

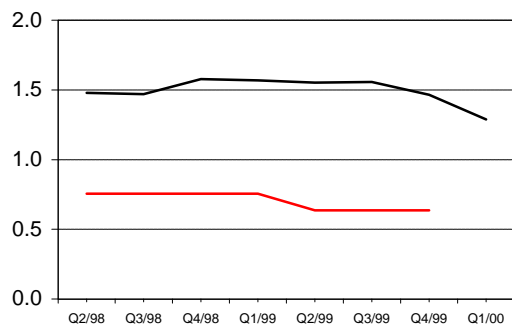
England & Wales

Data Not Available

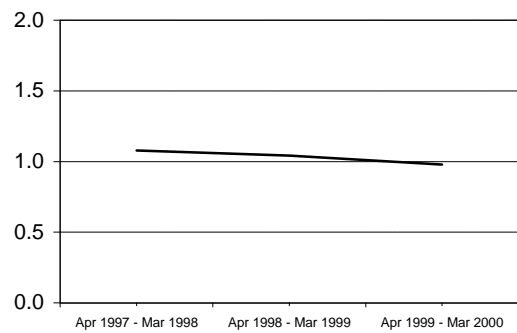
Trent Region



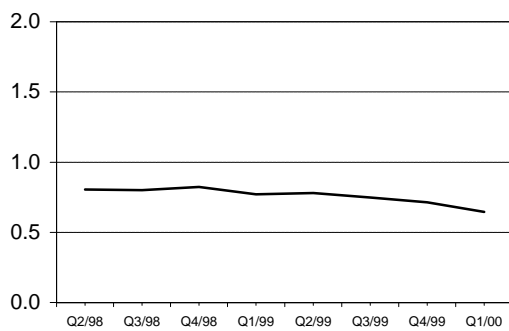
Barnsley HA



Doncaster HA

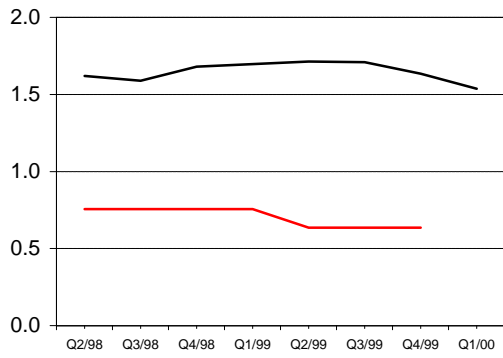


Rotherham HA

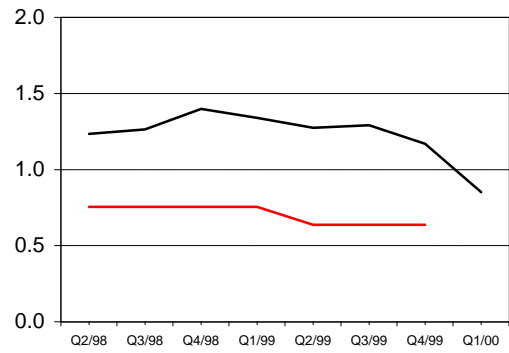


— Annual NIC/PU
 — HImP Target (where appropriate)

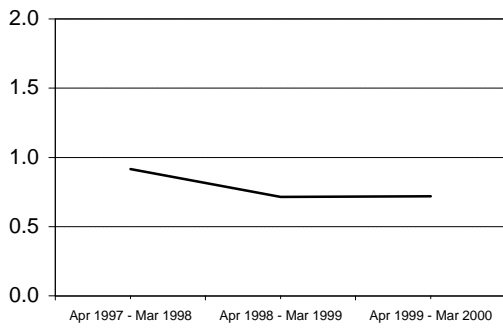
Barnsley East PCG



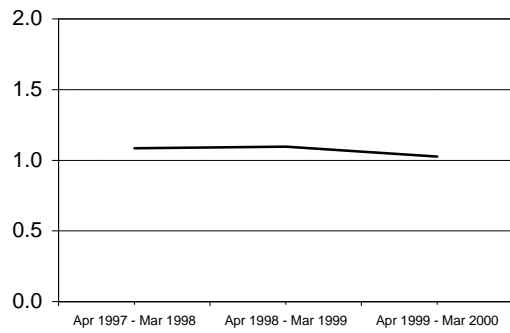
Barnsley West PCG



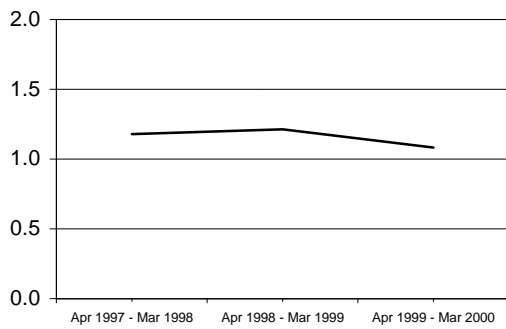
Doncaster Central PCT



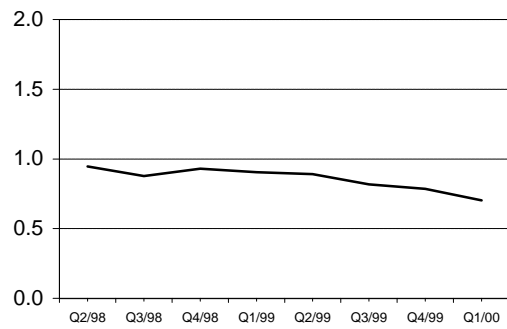
Doncaster East PCG



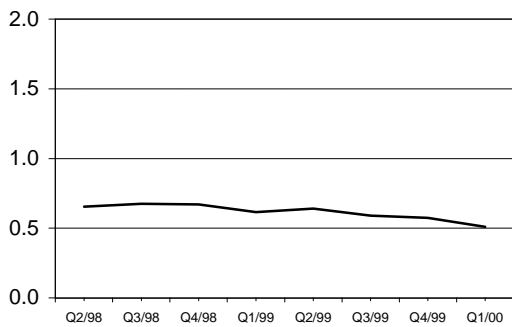
Doncaster West PCG



Rother Valley PCG



Rotherham PCG



Wentworth PCG

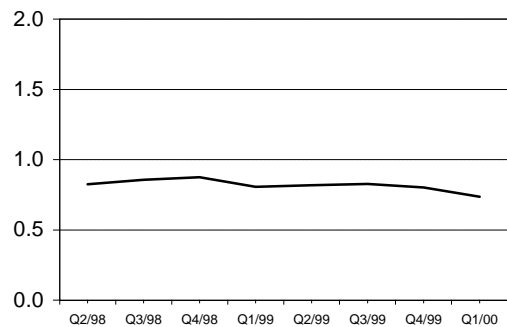


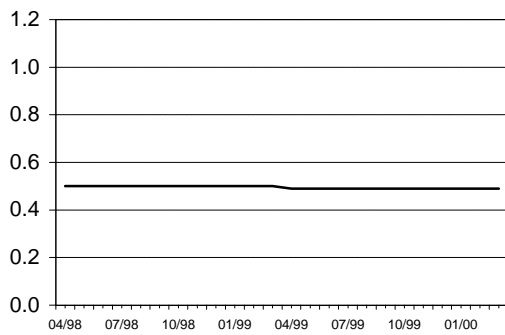
Figure 11.5 - Prescription Rates for Inhaled Corticosteroids

Cost per defined daily dose

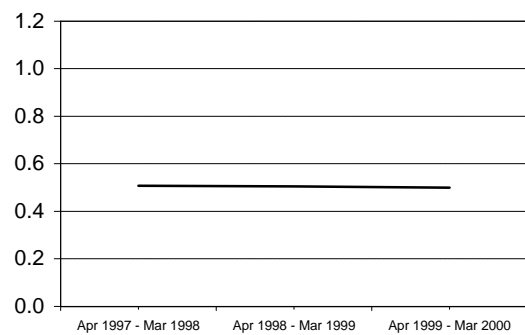
Target: Barnsley: Move towards the Trent average position.

Source: Prescription Pricing Authority

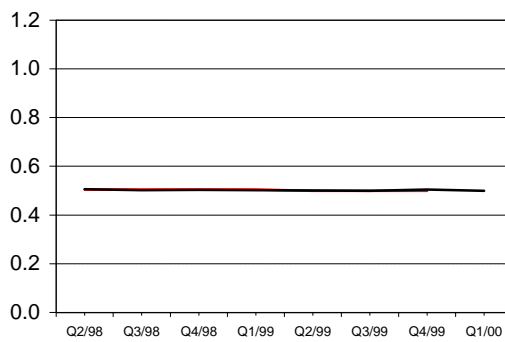
England & Wales



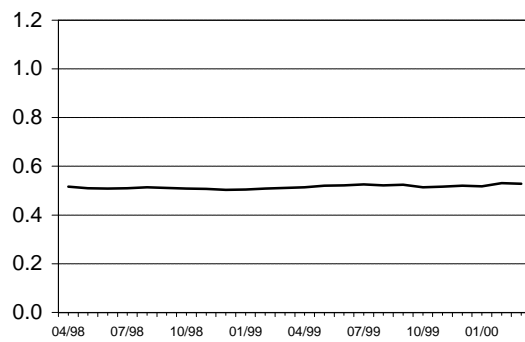
Trent Region



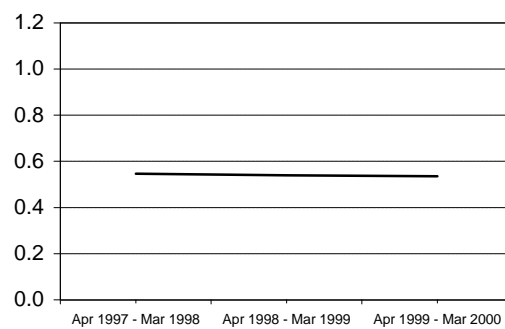
Barnsley HA



Doncaster HA

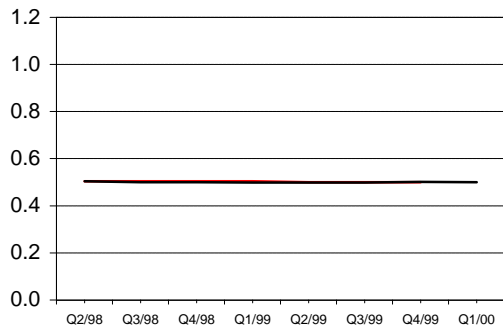


Rotherham HA

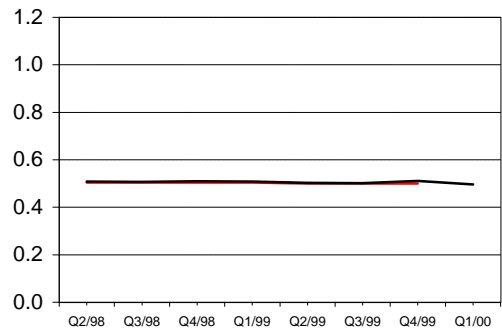


— NIC/DDD
 — HImP Target (where appropriate)

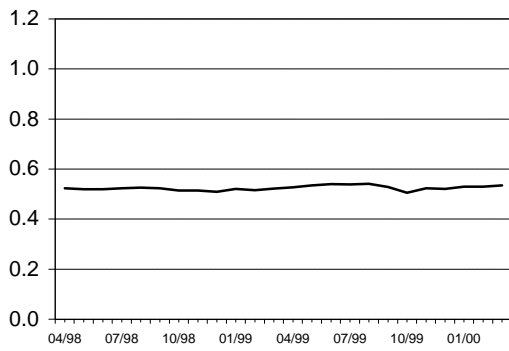
Barnsley East PCG



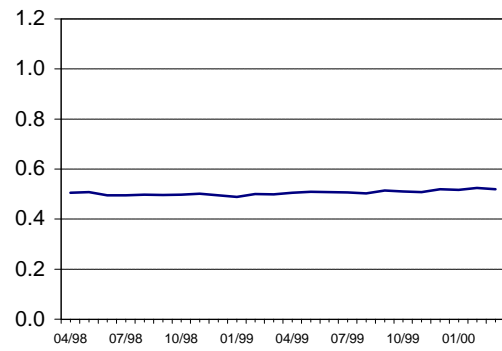
Barnsley West PCG



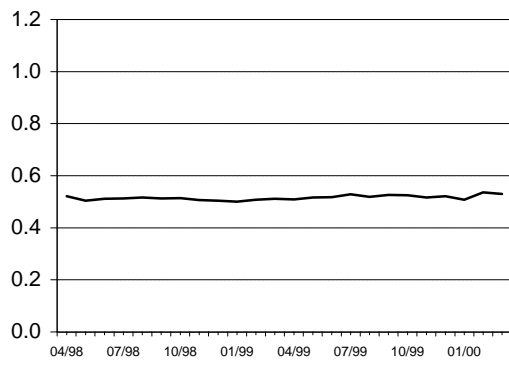
Doncaster Central PCT



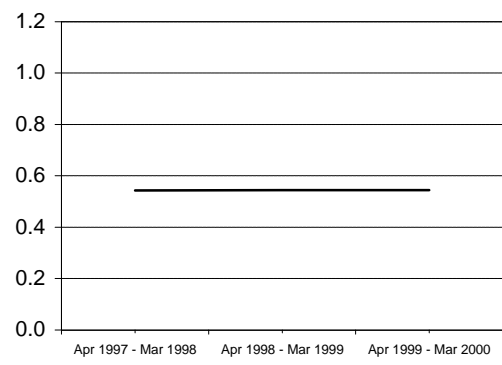
Doncaster East PCG



Doncaster West PCG



Rother Valley PCG



Rotherham PCG

Data Not Available

Wentworth PCG

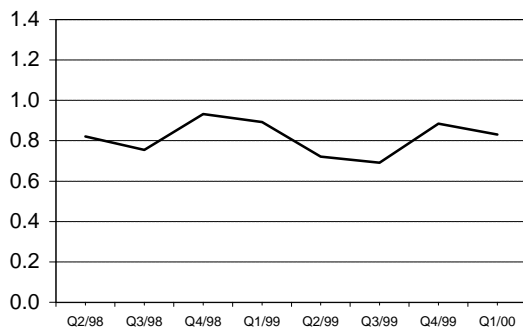


Figure 11.6 - Prescription Rates for Antibiotic Drugs

Items per weighted patient unit

Source: Prescription Pricing Authority

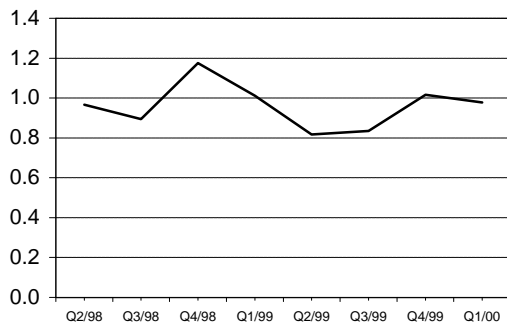
England & Wales



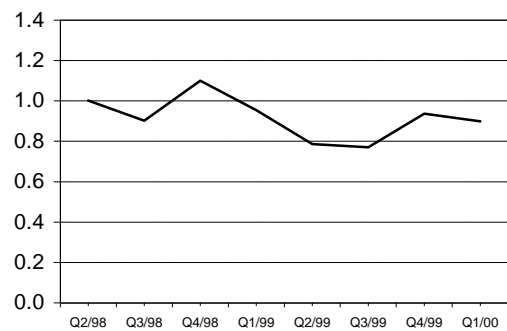
Trent Region

Data Not Available

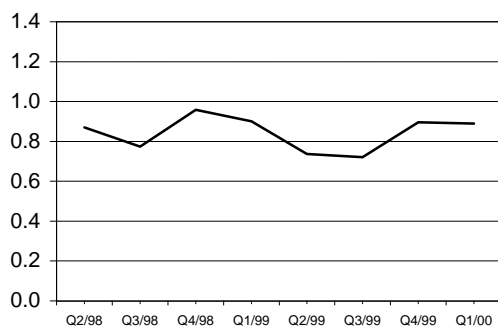
Barnsley HA



Doncaster HA

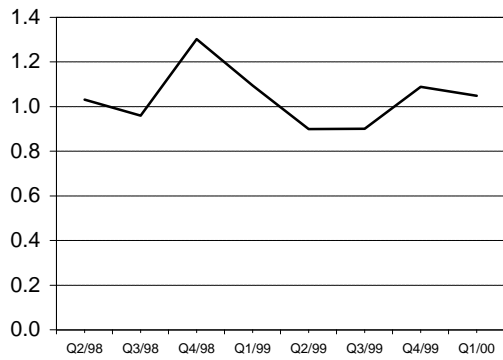


Rotherham HA

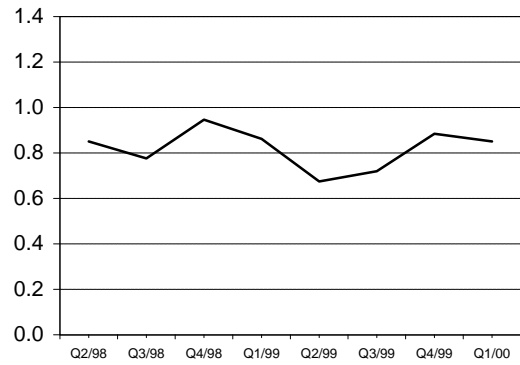


— Annual Items/STAR-PU

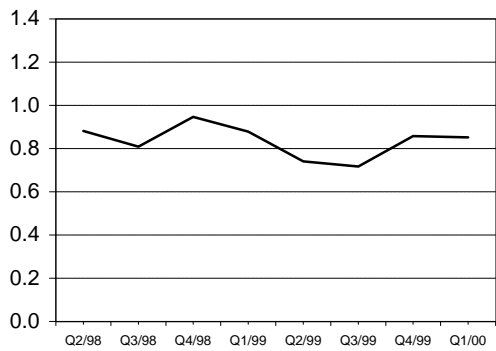
Barnsley East PCG



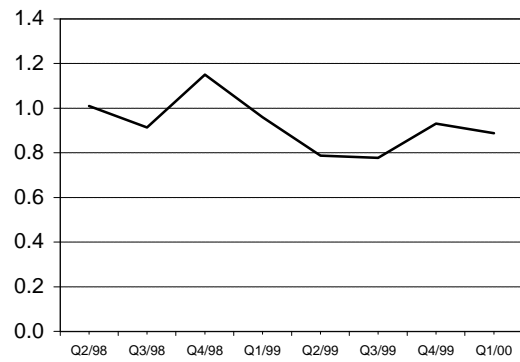
Barnsley West PCG



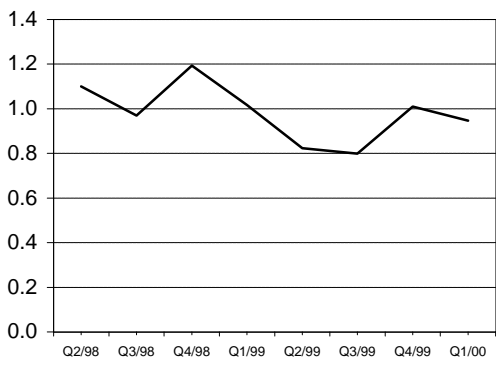
Doncaster Central PCT



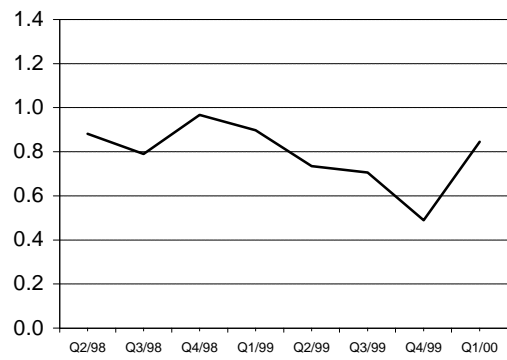
Doncaster East PCG



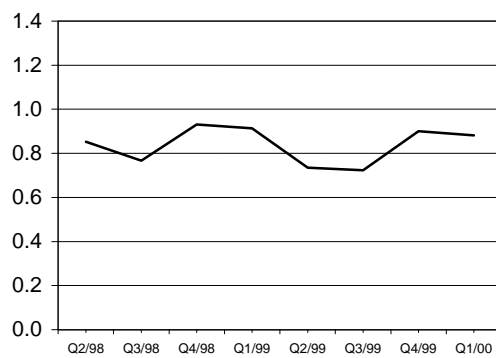
Doncaster West PCG



Rother Valley PCG



Rotherham PCG



Wentworth PCG

