



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

Switchboard +44 (0)207 798 7000
Direct Line +44 (0)207 798 7264
Email FOI@nao.org.uk

Reference FOI-1784
Date 14 January 2025

NHS EXPENDITURE ON PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

Thank you for your FOI request to the National Audit Office (NAO) dated 13 December 2024. You asked for the following information:

"Latest available NHS annual expenditure on prescribed pharmaceutical products:

- 1. All*
- 2. All proprietary*
- 3. All generic*
- 4. Average cost ratio of proprietary to generic products where both are available with equal approved efficacy and safety.*
- 5. Estimated effect if all prescriptions were to met by acceptable generic products, if available."*

Your request has been handled under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). We can confirm that we do not hold the information you have requested as the NAO does not audit local NHS bodies, such as NHS trusts and NHS foundation trusts, which is where medicines are primarily purchased.

The NHS Business Services Authority publishes data on the costs of medicines, appliances, dressings and medical devices prescribed within primary and secondary care in England [Prescribing Costs in Hospitals and the Community - England 2023-24 | NHSBSA](#). You would need to contact the NHSBSA should you have any further queries about this data. The contact email address for FOI requests is: foirequests@nhsbsa.nhs.uk.

I hope you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not happy with this response, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days by writing to the NAO FOI Team at FOI@nao.org.uk. If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>.

Yours sincerely,

FOI and Correspondence Officer