

What is the new metric?

The new metric has been developed by Oxford AHSN, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and the Accelerated Access Collaborative in collaboration with the NHS Business Services Authority (BSA). It is included in the NHS BSA Respiratory dashboard.

The new metric looks at patients in England who have been prescribed prednisolone tablets, as well as an asthma/COPD medication in the last 12 months. It calculates the total cumulative dose, in milligrams, for the whole period. This will help clinicians to identify everyone at risk, and to prioritise those most at risk for review. At-risk patients may be suited to alternative therapies or clinical strategies.

This method also minimises the chance of including patients who are taking prednisolone for non-respiratory conditions, which can include Crohn's disease and rheumatoid arthritis.

The metric was launched on the 2nd December 2021. Link to the press release: <https://media.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/news/nhs-tackles-potential-over-prescription-of-short-course-steroid>

How to access

An ePACT2 account is not needed to access the dashboard. Details of how to log on via the Catalyst portal (Figure 1) are available here:

<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/access-our-data-products/catalyst>

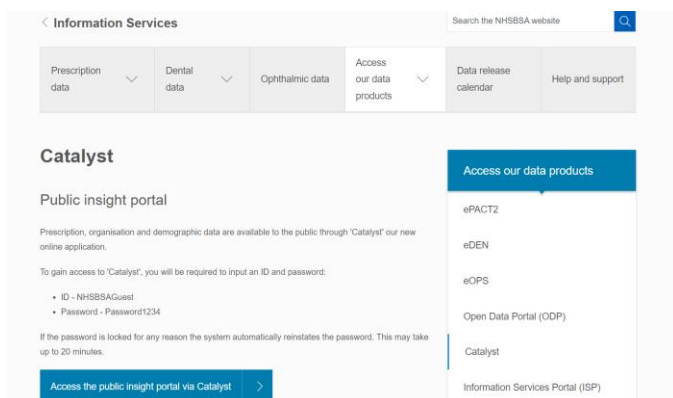


Figure 1. Catalyst portal

To find the Respiratory dashboard, When you have logged on, select the 'Respiratory' from the Dashboards tab (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Finding the Respiratory dashboard

Within the Respiratory Dashboard, select the 'Prescribing Volume Comparator'. The data can be stratified according to dose of prednisolone prescribed and patient age. Prescribing can be benchmarked nationally, regionally, by AHSN or STP/ICS geography. GP Practices can also be compared within a Clinical Commissioning Group (Figure 3) or Primary Care Network footprint.

GP Practices can use the tool to access the NHS numbers of the patients identified.

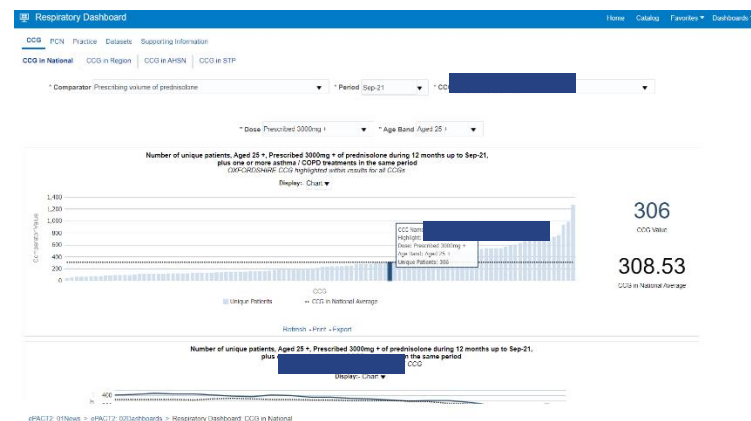


Figure 3. Clinical Commissioning Group view

Respiratory Dashboard Webinars

The NHS BSA will be running a series of webinar sessions introducing the new dashboard comparator and the updated functionality. If you'd like to attend a session, please use the [online booking calendar](#) to register.