

The GP practice prescribing budget

Every year, the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) set the prescribing budget for each GP practice by agreeing % uplift on outturn i.e what was spent on medicines last year. A number of different factors are also taken into consideration such as practice list size and population demographics such as deprivation, number of care home patients.

Each practice is reviewed regularly by the CCG's medicines management team using the database of prescription information provided by the NHS Business Services Authority (BSA), known as ePACT.

The CCG medicines management teams set a review programme for key target areas within current prescribing for practices to help manage their budgets. This might include measuring adherence to local drug formularies, drug switches of groups of patients to cost-effective generic alternatives, implementation of software such as *Scriptswitch* to improve clinical and cost effective prescribing.

The CCG medicines management teams also provide support and expertise to the practices in many other ways to support the safe prescribing of medication to patients. This might include Pharmacist-led disease specific clinics, medication review clinics, reviews of medication of patients in Care Homes.

Spend for the Nottinghamshire CCGs for 14/15

CCG	Spend on medicines
NHS Mansfield & Ashfield CCG	£27million
NHS Newark & Sherwood CCG	£19million
NHS Nottingham North & East CCG	£20million
NHS Nottingham West CCG	£12million
NHS Rushcliffe CCG	£14million
NHS Nottingham City CCG	£40million
TOTAL	£132million

It should be noted that prescribing spend increases year on year for a number of reasons such as an aging population with more comorbidities, new technologies, recommendations from NICE etc which are unavoidable. Hence efforts are focused in controlling the degree of the growth and forecasting the likely impact of this will have to budgets.