

- Medicines for the treatment of high cholesterol, heart disease, high blood pressure and stomach ulcers were amongst the top 10 PBS medicines (by volume) in 2005-06.

Top 10 PBS medicines, by volume, year ending June 2007¹

	Medicine	Indication	Script volume (million)
1.	Atorvastatin calcium	High cholesterol and heart disease	9.4
2.	Simvastatin	High cholesterol and heart disease	5.8
3.	Esomeprazole magnesium trihydrate	Stomach ulcers	4.1
4.	Omeprazole	Stomach ulcers	3.5
5.	Perindopril erbumine	High blood pressure	3.3
6.	Paracetamol	Analgesic	3.3
7.	Atenolol	High blood pressure and angina	2.9
8.	Irbesartan	High blood pressure	2.7
9.	Pantoprazole sodium susquihydrate	Stomach ulcers	2.7
10	Metformin hydrochloride	Diabetes	2.7

¹ Department of Health and Ageing, 2008. *Expenditure and prescriptions twelve months to June 2007*. Available: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/pbs-stats-pbexp-jun07> [Accessed 21 February 2007].

Top 10 PBS medicines, by cost to Government, year ending June 2006

	Medicine	Indication	Cost to Government (AUD \$million)
1.	Atorvastatin calcium	High cholesterol and heart disease	530
2.	Simvastatin	High cholesterol and heart disease	288
3.	Clopidogrel hydrogen sulphate	Coronary artery disease	157
4.	Olanzapine	Schizophrenia	153
5.	Fluticasone propionate with salmeterol xinofoate	Asthma	148
6.	Esomeprazole magnesium trihydrate	Stomach ulcers	148
7.	Omeprazole	Stomach ulcers	103
8.	Venlafaxine hydrochloride	Depression	88
9.	Pravastatin sodium	High cholesterol and heart disease	86
10.	Alendronate sodium	Osteoporosis	82

- In 2005-06, Australians had access to 138 new medicines which were listed on the PBS². Of these new medicines, 16 were New Chemical Entities.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) recommendations for PBS listing 2005-06³

Number of PBAC recommendations	67
Number of new items listed on the PBS	125
Number of vaccines recommended for listing on the National Immunisation Program	3
Section 100 recommendations	15
Number of new Section 100 items listed	33

² Department of Health and Ageing, 2008. *Expenditure and prescriptions twelve months to 30 June 2007*.

Available : <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/pbs-stats-pbexp-jun07> [Accessed 21 February 2007].

³ Pharmaceutical Benefits Pricing Authority 2007. *Annual Report for year ending 30 June 2007*. Available:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/pbs-pricing-pbpa-annualreport07> [Accessed 21 February 2007].

- On a weekly basis, Australian households spend six times more on alcoholic beverages and three times more on cigarettes and tobacco than they do on prescription medicines⁴.

Average weekly household expenditure⁵

Commodity	\$ per household per week
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	152.87
Current housing costs	143.50
Transport	139.25
Clothing and footwear	35.26
Alcoholic beverages	23.32
Cigarettes/tobacco	11.55
Self medication/over-the-counter products	5.52
Prescription medicines	3.71

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⁴ ABS 2006. Catalogue no. 6535.0.55.001 - Household Expenditure Survey.

⁵ ABS 2006. Catalogue no. 6535.0.55.001 - Household Expenditure Survey.