

Irish Prescribing Index

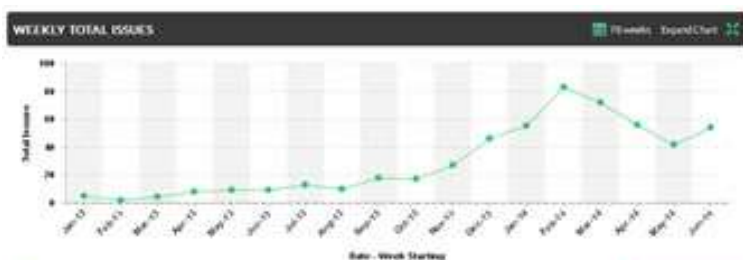
What is IPI?

The Irish Prescribing Index is an online, fully automated prescribing analytics platform that enables General Practitioners to monitor their prescribing patterns for the benefit of patients

Why was it created?

It is well recognised that a physician's prescribing habit is exactly that, a habit! Prescribing patterns develop over time and once established can remain fixed throughout a career, sometimes despite evidence that may support the prescribing of an alternative medication. Gaining insight into prescribing patterns can help ensure that physicians continually review and reflect on their prescribing to ensure it aligns with best practice. Our core objective was to create a platform for General Practitioners to anonymously benchmark where their practice's prescribing ranked compared to the aggregated total of other practices on the IPI platform. Our goals included:

- Develop a online, secure, platform that was intuitive for General Practitioners to use on a daily basis
- Enable General Practitioners to search by trade name, generic name, ATC code and filter by age category to allow more meaningful and targeted
- Establish, grow and maintain the anonymised dataset on a secure server and ensure 100% compliance with data protection standards
- Automatically save and generate reports and graphs to facilitate meaningful interpretation of findings, including options to disseminate results with colleagues or practice members for discussion
- Support safe, evidence based prescribing by providing General Practitioners with tools to facilitate ongoing audits and quality improvement initiatives



Example 1: Illustrates how, in a single practice, prescribing of a first line antibiotic (amoxicillin) has increased over time from January 2013 to date.



Example 2: Illustrates, for the same test practice, a decrease in prescribing of a non-first line antibiotic. (In this case 'show IPI average' – dotted green line- has been selected allowing the GP see how their practice compares to other practices in the IPI.)

What information is sent from my practice to IPI?

All information sent to IPI is anonymised and grouped prescribing lists. Individual patient prescriptions are **not** uploaded. Instead we group prescriptions together into age categories. Sample Data:

Trade Name	Generic Name	ATC	AGE	Total Issues	Quantity
ABILIFY 10MG CRODISPERSEBLE TABS	ARIPRAZOLE	N05AX12	36-40	1	56
ABILIFY 10MG TABS OPHARMA	ARIPRAZOLE	N05AX12	36-40	1	30
ABILIFY 15MG TABS OPHARMA	ARIPRAZOLE	N05AX12	36-40	1	30
ACERYCAL 10MG/5MG-TABS	PERINDOPRILJAMLODIPINE	C09BB04	>80	1	28
ACNECIDE 5%W/W GEL	BENZOYL PEROXIDE	D10AE01	16-20	1	1
ADALAT 10MG CAPS SOFT	NIFEDIPINE	C08CA05	75-80	1	56
ADALAT LA 20MG PRO REL TABS B&S	NIFEDIPINE	C08CA05	66-70	1	60

Here we can see Acerycal was prescribed once in the previous week – a total of 30 tablets were prescribed and this prescription was in the age category of >80.

Due to data protection considerations all information is aggregated at practice level, not at physician level so the reports in IPI are for a whole practice, not a physician. All data is anonymised at upload.

How does IPI protect the privacy of my data and practice?

Data protection and the privacy of our users is our no. 1 priority. All uploads to the IPI are anonymised and encrypted. We use HTTPS, similar to online banking, to ensure site security when you log in. The same team that developed the IPCRN uploading system, which has been running for over 2 years now, have also developed the IPI uploading system.

User names and practice names are never released to any third party. Data uploaded to IPI remains your property and you may request to have it deleted at any stage. We will also delete any email/contact details we have on request.

We fund the development and maintenance of this service by providing anonymised regional trending reports on issues and quantities prescribed to third parties. We do not provide any data to the HSE or its affiliates. Data for all IPI reports is always anonymised and individual practice names are **never ever** identified.

How can I sign up to IPI?

Go to www.irishprescribingindex.ie and click register, fill out the form and click submit, you will be brought to a test example site to review the system before it is connected to your live practice data.

How do I get assistance in using the system?

While using IPI:

Click the **Help and Feedback** button on the top right of the screen

OR

Click on HOW TO USE on the menu bar, here you will find step by step videos that show you how to use all the features.

By email at:

feedback@irishprescribingindex.ie

By phone:

Call 01 5549 799

How can IPI help me complete my Audit?

Go to the Audit section of the menu bar for step by step instructions on how to use IPI to complete your Audit obligations.