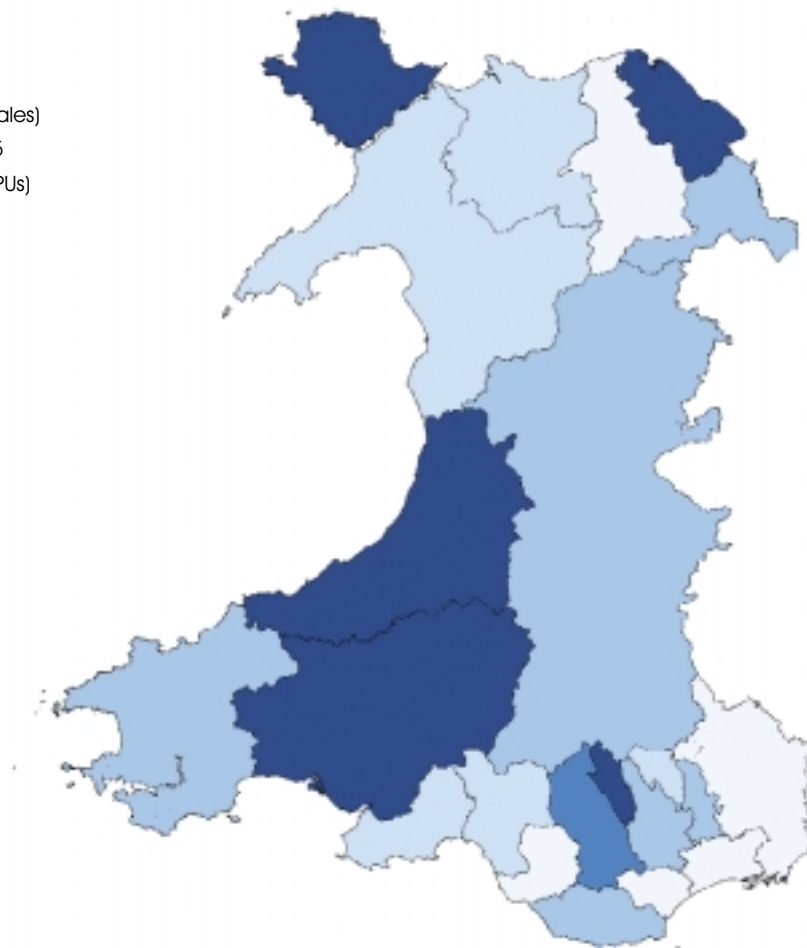
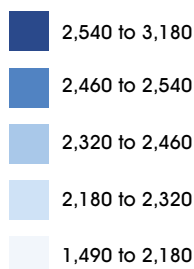


## Clopidogrel prescribing

### Source

Comparative Analysis System for  
Prescribing Audit (Health Solutions Wales)  
December 2004 to November 2005  
Cost (£) per 1000 prescribing units (PUs)



### Prescribing clopidogrel – an update following WeMeReC Bulletin, February 2005

- ◆ Clopidogrel is an anti-platelet agent which is licensed for use in patients with myocardial infarction, ischaemic stroke, or peripheral arterial disease. Use in combination with aspirin is specifically for patients with acute coronary syndrome.
- ◆ Clopidogrel is an alternative to aspirin but it is not necessarily safer; clopidogrel can cause bleeding and in combination with aspirin it is associated with additional risks. If a patient cannot take aspirin because of gastrointestinal disturbance or a history of ulcer, prescribing a gastroprotective agent such as a proton-pump inhibitor should be considered.
- ◆ Reasons for prescribing clopidogrel should be clearly identified, documented, and shared between primary and secondary care. Partnership committees should have clear guidelines on using clopidogrel with aspirin which include advice on duration of treatment.

Clopidogrel use should be audited as part of the national prescribing incentive scheme