



Explanatory notes for WeMeReC Maps: Rosuvastatin[▼] prescribing

Rosuvastatin (Crestor[®])[▼] is a lipid-regulating medicine taken to reduce the risk of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease events.

The map of Wales is divided by **Local Health Board (LHB)** areas; there are 21 LHBs and one unified healthcare board, each of which is co-terminus with local government unitary authorities.

Health Solutions Wales is an NHS organisation. Its Prescribing Services Unit provides data entry and pricing services relating to prescriptions dispensed within Wales. It also is responsible for the provision of prescribing information and information systems to enable drug expenditure to be monitored.

Further information is available from www.hsw.wales.nhs.uk

Prescribing Units (PUs) is an analysis term that was developed to take account of the greater need of elderly patients for medication. Patients aged 65 and over are counted as three prescribing units and patients under 65 years and temporary residents as one.

The **banding ranges** which are used for the Maps are not always equal. The band widths are set using mapping software to allow similar numbers of LHBs (usually 4 to 5) to exist within each quintile. However, the bands are not set arbitrarily; an algorithm is used to prevent outlying values from skewing the data within each range. Thus, if data points are very close (as was the case of the clopidogrel map) the number of LHBs within the bands may vary. The figures that appear on the maps are checked manually against prescribing data.

Using these bands produces more useful visual representations of prescribing data. This approach has been chosen to help to meet our objectives of highlighting trends across Wales and of raising awareness of prescribing within each LHB.