

Kent and Medway Dental Prescribing

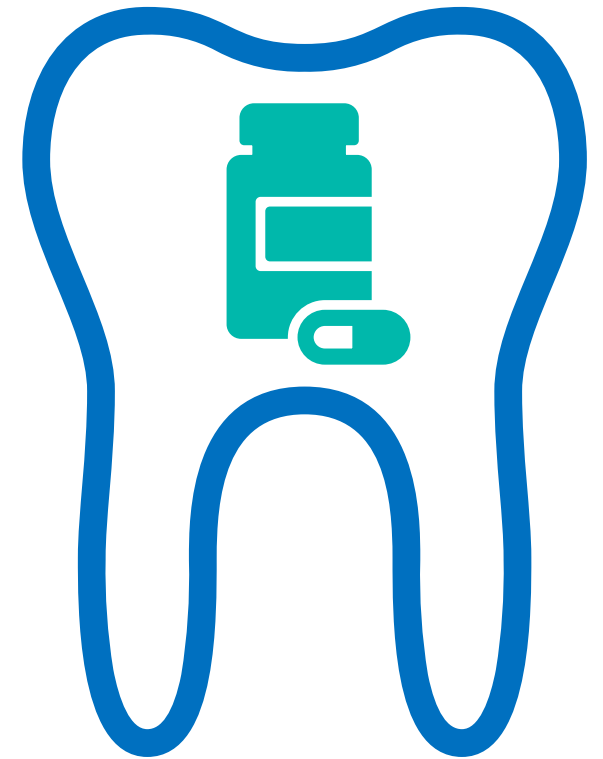
TOP TIPS

DO NOT prescribe Co Amoxiclav

First line antimicrobial - Phenoxymethylpenicillin (Penicillin V, PenV)

Only prescribe fluoride toothpaste for high dental caries risk patients

Together, we can



Key Antimicrobial Messages

1. Prescribe only when clinically indicated

- Avoid routine use of antibiotics for dental pain or localized infections without systemic involvement.

2. Follow national or local guidelines

- Use evidence-based protocols (e.g., NICE, SDCEP) to guide appropriate antibiotic choice, dose, and duration.
- Regularly update your knowledge with the latest guidance.

3. Minimize resistance risk and adverse effects.

- Overuse contributes to antimicrobial resistance (AMR), a major global health threat.
- Emphasise to patients that antibiotics are not always necessary and explain risks of misuse.
- Incorrect use of antimicrobials can result in serious illnesses such as C Difficile.

4. Document justification clearly

- Always record the indication, agent, dose, duration, and advice given in the patient's record.

5. Use narrow-spectrum antibiotics when possible

- Broad-spectrum antibiotics should be reserved for cases where the infection is severe or unresponsive.

6. Treat the Cause, Not Just the Symptoms

- Prioritize operative interventions (e.g., drainage, extraction) over antibiotics - Dental infections are best managed by operative care, not antibiotics.

Use First-Line Antibiotics Appropriately

- **Phenoxymethylpenicillin (Penicillin V)** is the first-line antibiotic for many dental infections, especially in children.
- Narrow-spectrum, effective, and less likely to drive resistance.
- Use where guidelines recommend, particularly for acute dentoalveolar infections.

Avoid Broad-Spectrum and Less-Effective Alternatives

- **Do not prescribe co-amoxiclav** as first-line — it is broad-spectrum and should be reserved for specific, severe infections or on microbiological advice.
- **Avoid erythromycin** — it is less effective against oral pathogens and has more gastrointestinal side effects and drug interactions.
- If penicillin allergy is present, consider metronidazole or clarithromycin based on guidelines — not erythromycin.

Do not prescribe antibiotics for:

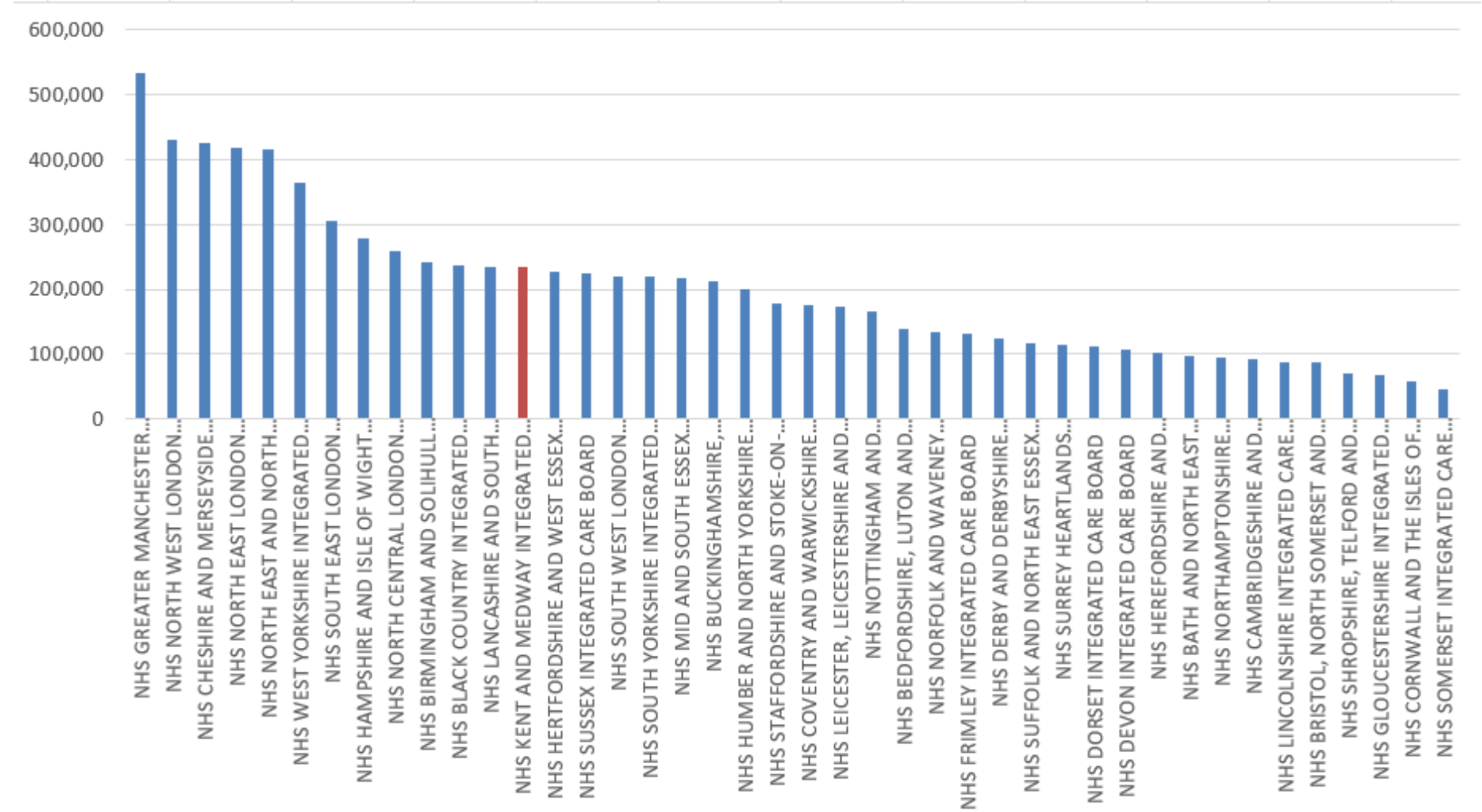
- Irreversible pulpitis
- Localised dental abscesses without systemic signs
- Dry socket (unless infection is present)

**"Prescribe when appropriate
— treat when possible.
Operative care should never
be delayed in favour of
unnecessary antibiotics."**

Total Antimicrobials Prescribed – ICB Level



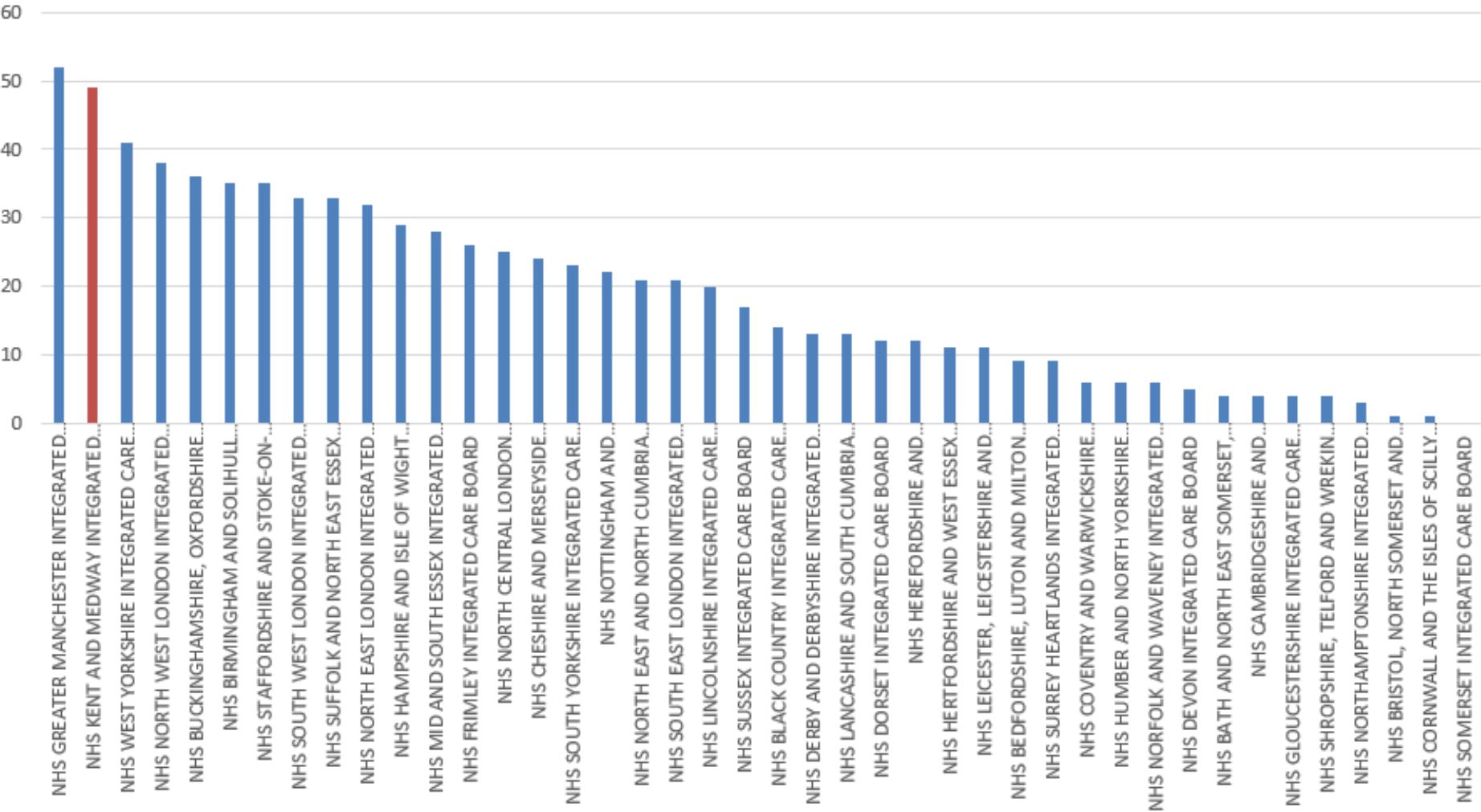
Kent and Medway



Data from Jan 2022 shows Kent and Medway were 13th out of 42 ICBs for total antimicrobials prescribed.



Co Amoxiclav Prescribed in April 2025

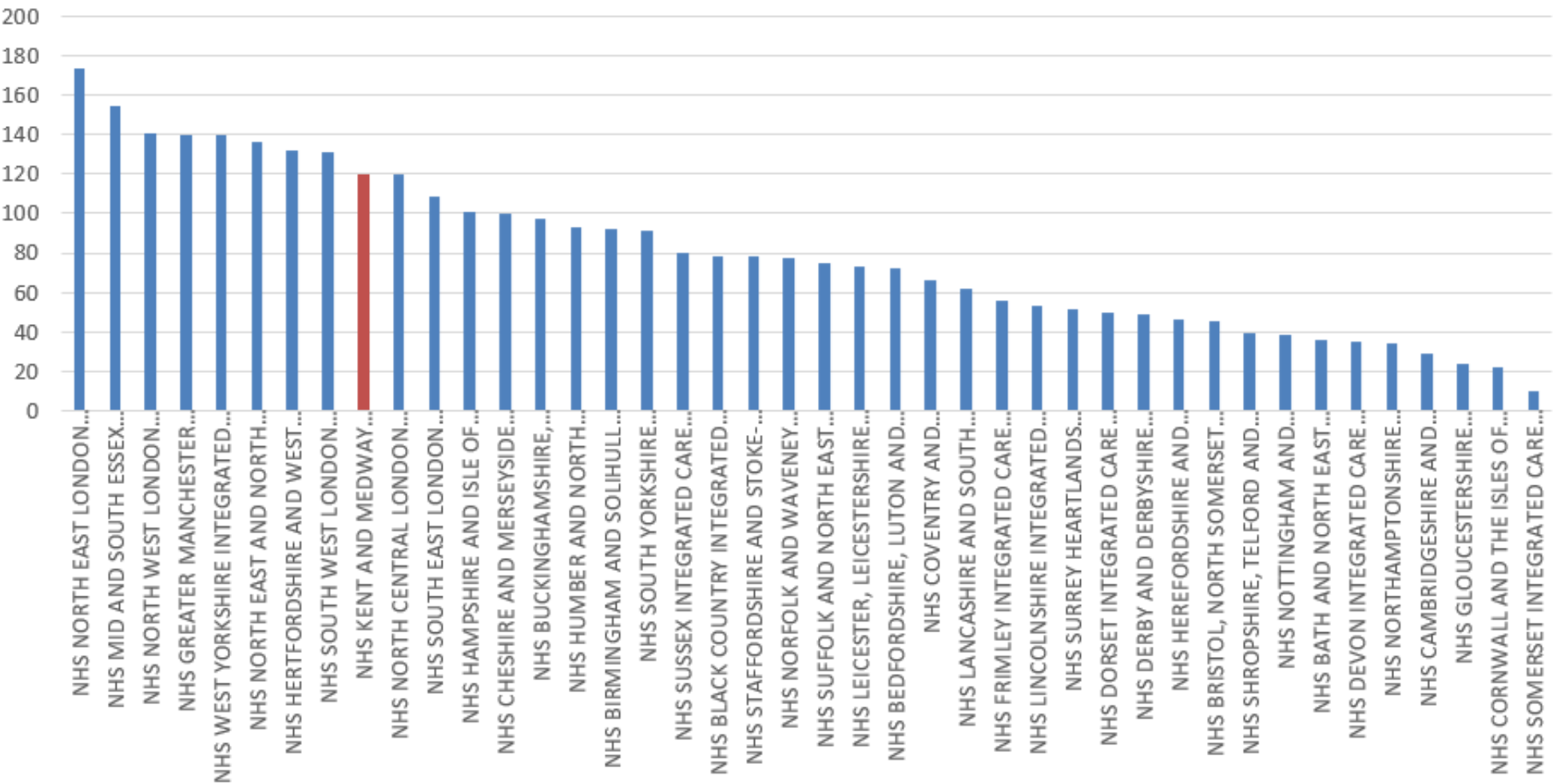


Data from April 2025 shows Kent and Medway were the 2nd Highest prescriber for Co Amoxiclav

Erythromycin Prescribed in April 2025



Kent and Medway

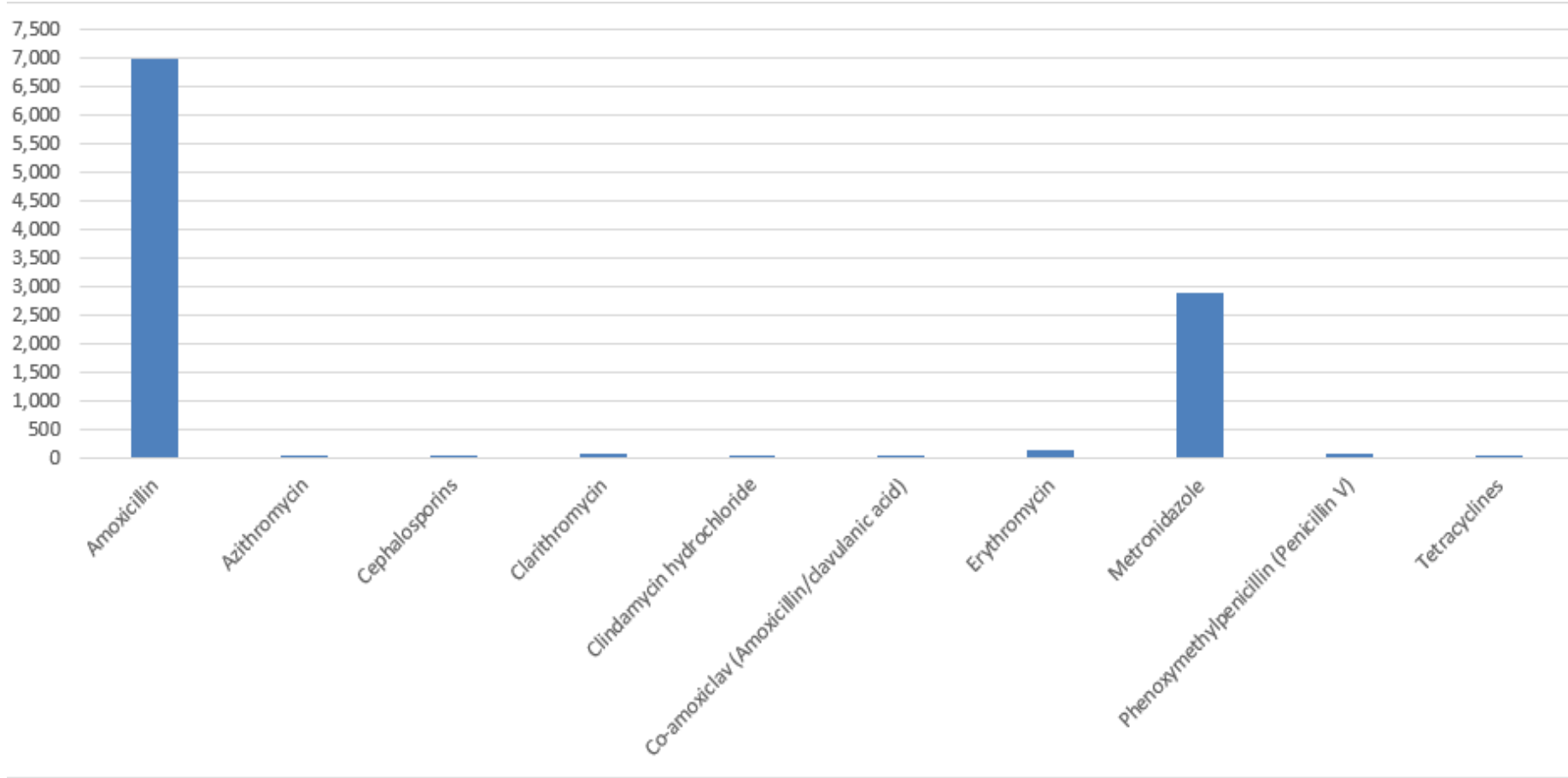


Data from April 2025 shows Kent and Medway were the 9th highest prescriber for Erythromycin.



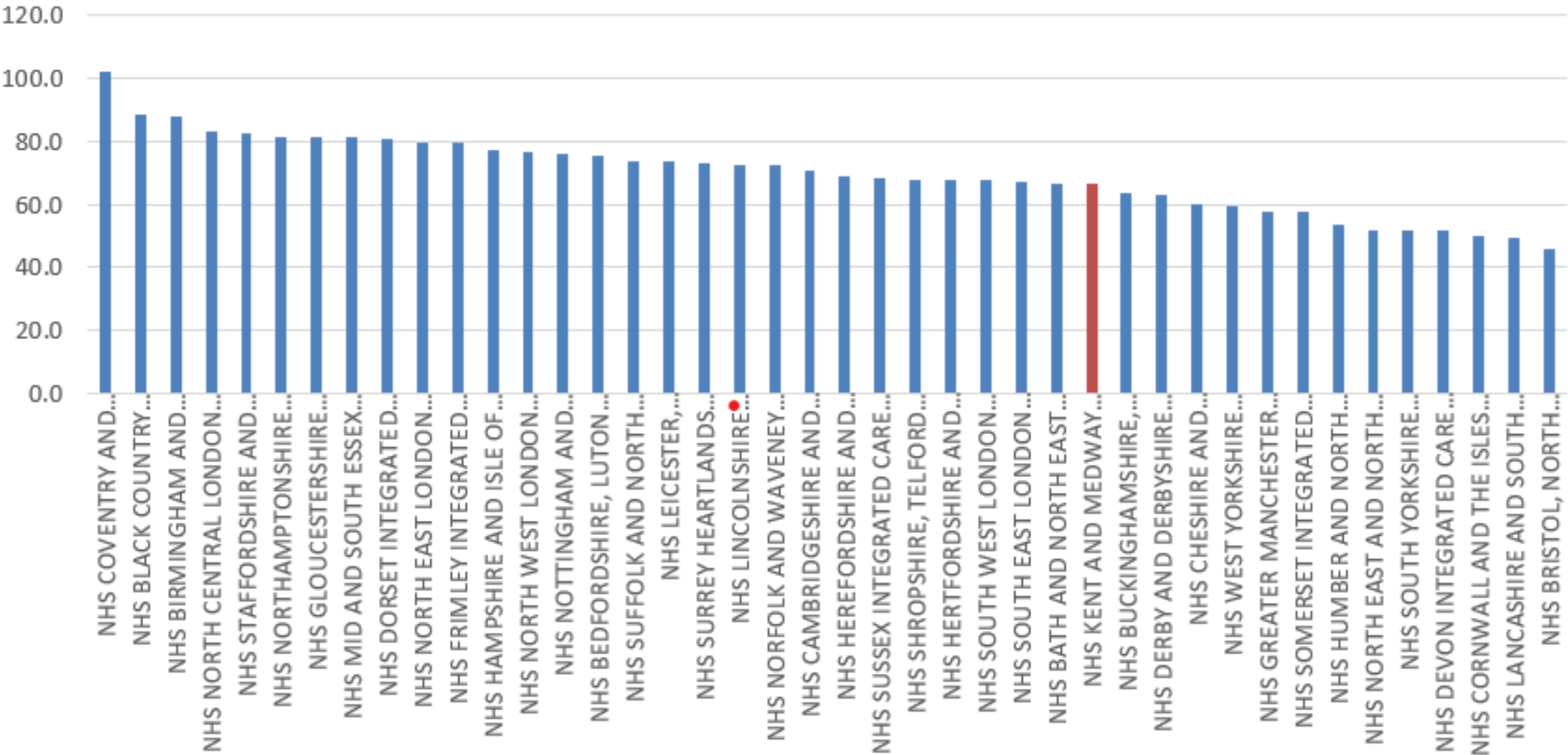
Type of Antimicrobials Prescribed in April 2025

ICB Level



Data from April 2025 shows Kent and Medway are prescribing high levels of Amoxicillin compared to low levels of Penicillin V prescribing.

Antibacterial items as % of total Band 1 urgent FP17s



Key Fluoride Messages

1. Evidence on the efficacy of higher dose fluoride toothpastes is limited, and available studies focus on root caries.
2. Dentists may wish to consider higher concentration fluoride toothpastes for vulnerable young people and adults susceptible to **dental caries**.
3. Before prescribing be sure to evaluate – **history of caries, dietary habits, oral hygiene, saliva flow and medical conditions**.
4. Prescribe the correct fluoride concentration:

Sodium fluoride **2,800 ppm toothpaste** - for use include **high dental caries risks patients aged 10 years and over**. This includes those with dental caries present, a high cariogenic diet or cariogenic medication.

Sodium fluoride **5,000 ppm toothpaste** - for use include **high dental caries risk patients aged 16 years and over**. This includes those with root or coronal caries present or risk factors such as dry mouth, overdentures, those with a highly cariogenic diet or cariogenic medication and those who have received head and neck radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

5. Prescribing should be in conjunction with reducing sugar intake, **subject to review** and **not normally for the long term**. Follow up regularly to evaluate effectiveness and adjust or stop as required.
6. Give **clear written instructions** – prevent swallowing of toothpaste, spit don't rinse.

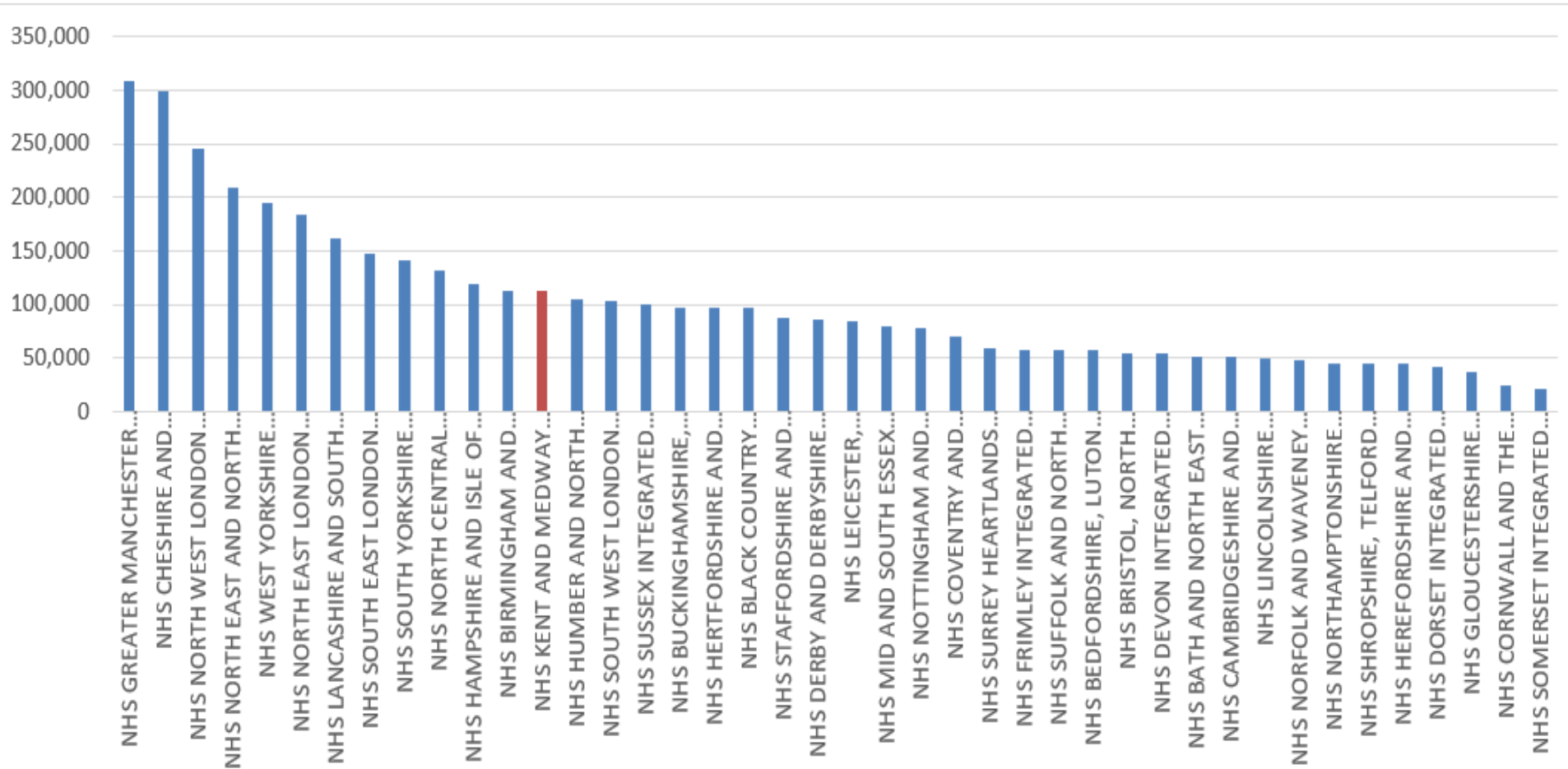
Pharmacy Stamp	Age 13 D.O.B 01/01/2007	Title, Forename, Surname & Address Master Joe Patient 101 High Street St. Mary Mead NWP 0R7
Please don't stamp over age box Number of days' treatment N.B. Ensure dose is stated		NHS Number:
Endorsements Sodium Fluoride Toothpaste 0.619%. (F⁻ 2.8 mg per 1 gram) Three x 75ml tubes Apply 1 centimetre* twice a day. To be applied after meals using a toothbrush. [one item on this prescription]		
Signature of Dentist 		Date 02/04/2020
For dispenser No. of Prescs. on form	Dentist's name and address Dr Bob Dandridge Preventive Dental Practice Station Road Malbry BD5 1R6	
		9876543219 FP10D0608

Prescription for higher dose fluoride toothpaste 2800ppm

Total Fluoride Prescribing – ICB Level



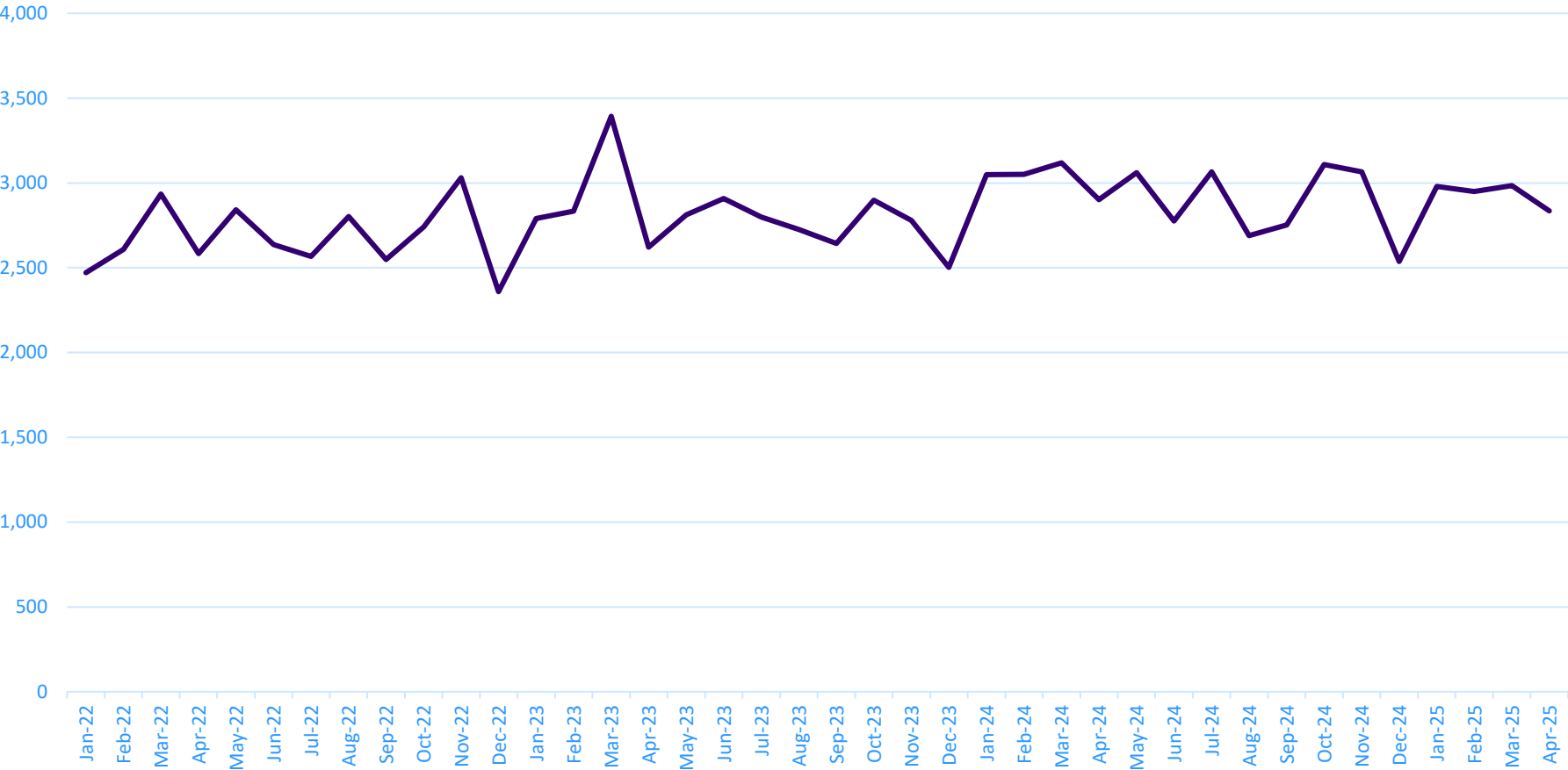
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Data from Jan 2022 shows Kent and Medway were 13th out of 42 ICBs for total fluoride prescribed.



Fluoride Prescribing 22-25



Data from Jan 2022 shows an increase trend for fluoride prescribing in Kent and Medway.

Total Costs for 2024-25



Kent and Medway

Antimicrobials	
Jan-24	11,901
Feb-24	11,420
Mar-24	11,430
Apr-24	10,646
May-24	11,592
Jun-24	11,271
Jul-24	13,349
Aug-24	11,043
Sep-24	11,416
Oct-24	10,425
Nov-24	10,888
Dec-24	9,856
Jan-25	11,476
Feb-25	10,280
Mar-25	10,310
Apr-25	11,143
TOTAL	£178,445

Fluorides	
Jan-24	66,803
Feb-24	66,288
Mar-24	68,597
Apr-24	63,575
May-24	68,952
Jun-24	61,668
Jul-24	67,187
Aug-24	59,944
Sep-24	61,813
Oct-24	68,407
Nov-24	68,894
Dec-24	57,734
Jan-25	65,262
Feb-25	65,879
Mar-25	67,277
Apr-25	66,671
TOTAL	£1,097,963

Total Spend in Kent and Medway for 24-25.

Useful Guidance and Support

[Antimicrobial Prescribing & Resistance | KLDC](#)

[Drug prescribing | Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Pr](#)

[Prescribing in dental practice | Medicines guidance | BNF | NICE](#)

[RGDP Guidance](#)

[Dental antimicrobial stewardship: toolkit - GOV.UK](#)

[Fluoride | Treatment summaries | BNF | NICE](#)

[Chapter 9: Fluoride - GOV.UK](#)