

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
BY DEPUTY M.R. HIGGINS OF ST. HELIER
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 21st MAY 2019**

Question

Will the Minister advise members of the number of opioids prescribed by (a) the General Hospital and (b) general practitioners for each year from 2014 to 2018, as well as the respective costs; and will he also advise whether any assessment has been undertaken of the incentives being offered by pharmaceutical companies to doctors to prescribe their products and what steps, if any, he is taking to avoid a repetition in Jersey of the 'opioid crisis' that has arisen in the United States and that is also reportedly starting to occur in the United Kingdom?

Answer

a) The General Hospital

The table below shows the quantities of opioids supplied in each year from the hospital pharmacy system. These figures include inpatient and outpatient use. Records are not kept in a way that records the number of prescriptions. The figures are regularly monitored with any areas of concern examined further.

Drug Name	Quantity supplied by year (this is the number of individual injections, tablets, capsules or mL of oral solution)				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
ALFENTANIL Injection 1 mg in 2mL	3,043	2,429	2,766	2,345	1,200
ALFENTANIL Injection 5 mg in 1mL	1,710	2,640	2,440	2,194	2,461
BUPRENORPHINE Transdermal Patch 10 micrograms released per hour	56	22	60	96	113
BUPRENORPHINE Transdermal Patch 20 micrograms released per hour	0	0	0	65	12
BUPRENORPHINE Transdermal Patch 35 micrograms per hour	15	0	8	8	28
BUPRENORPHINE Transdermal Patch 5 micrograms released per hour	56	59	102	232	315
CO-CODAMOL Effervescent Tablets 30/500mg	0	1,960	3,154	4,149	3,967
CO-CODAMOL Effervescent Tablets 8/500mg	18,061	12,620	13,184	10,413	9,472
CO-CODAMOL Tablets 30/500mg	88,734	77,681	79,621	88,349	94,590
CO-CODAMOL Tablets 8/500mg	72,673	72,575	63,775	56,694	54,471
CODEINE Tablets 15 mg	0	0	814	894	1155
CODEINE Tablets 30 mg	73,124	77,000	88,572	84,540	91,002

CO-DYDRAMOL Tablets 10/500mg	1,040	2,744	3,270	2,858	2,461
DIAMORPHINE Injection 10 mg	354	477	375	511	565
DIAMORPHINE Injection 100 mg	0	0	5	20	30
DIAMORPHINE Injection 30 mg	167	90	25	70	35
DIAMORPHINE Injection 5 mg	3,356	3,514	3,109	3,077	2,394
DIAMORPHINE Injection 500 mg	0	15	0	0	0
DIHYDROCODEINE Modified-Release Tablets 60 mg	3,745	5,379	4,914	6,046	5,835
DIHYDROCODEINE Modified-Release Tablets 90 mg	218	175	310	125	460
DIHYDROCODEINE Oral Solution 10 mg in 5mL	1,050	150	450	150	600
DIHYDROCODEINE Tablets 30 mg	9,613	11,109	10,052	6,244	6,127
DIPIPANONE WITH CYCLIZINE Tablets 10mg / 30mg	2,200	1,730	600	400	200
FENTANYL Injection 100 micrograms in 2mL	5,492	5,963	5,881	5,570	6,570
FENTANYL Transdermal Patch 100 micrograms released per hour	312	354	122	107	143
FENTANYL Transdermal Patch 12 micrograms released per hour	2,062	2,467	2,197	2,234	1,913
FENTANYL Transdermal Patch 25 micrograms released per hour	2,536	2,402	1,384	1,492	1,127
FENTANYL Transdermal Patch 50 micrograms released per hour	838	706	646	807	478
FENTANYL Transdermal Patch 75 micrograms released per hour	444	276	217	270	306
MORPHINE IN SODIUM CHLORIDE 0.9% Injection 100 mg in 50mL	231	170	180	199	205
MORPHINE Injection 10 mg in 10mL	0	0	0	0	600
MORPHINE Injection 10 mg in 1mL	5,005	4,440	3,622	3,548	3,878
MORPHINE Modified-Release Granules 100 mg	0	282	0	0	0
MORPHINE Modified-Release Granules 20 mg	120	654	74	142	240
MORPHINE Modified-Release Granules 30 mg	0	482	90	88	90
MORPHINE Modified-Release Granules 60 mg	0	120	0	0	0
MORPHINE Modified-Release Tablets 10 mg	3,882	4,899	3,692	3,607	4,949
MORPHINE Modified-Release Tablets 100 mg	126	0	16	136	119
MORPHINE Modified-Release Tablets 30 mg	3,182	1,792	1,990	1,482	1,486
MORPHINE Modified-Release Tablets 5 mg	850	1,169	647	1,010	1,030

MORPHINE Oral Solution 10 mg in 5mL	76,813	87,383	81,209	107,425	91,209
MORPHINE Tablets 10 mg	2,854	1,426	1,632	765	1,170
MORPHINE Tablets 20 mg	812	1,144	1,013	1,064	1,003
OXYCODONE / NALOXONE Modified-Release Tablets 10mg / 5mg	4,022	4,978	7,264	5,963	5,913
OXYCODONE / NALOXONE Modified-Release Tablets 20mg / 10mg	2,230	3,412	3,135	3,741	4,242
OXYCODONE / NALOXONE Modified-Release Tablets 40mg / 20mg	246	728	324	1,470	1,106
OXYCODONE / NALOXONE Modified-Release Tablets 5mg / 2.5mg	1,490	2,149	2,899	2,307	2,264
OXYCODONE Capsules 10 mg	4,355	9,131	9,620	14,139	11,160
OXYCODONE Capsules 5 mg	2,711	4,271	5,325	5,003	6,050
OXYCODONE Injection 10 mg in 1mL	650	1,000	1,776	2,527	3,021
OXYCODONE Injection 20 mg in 2mL	192	143	10	55	51
OXYCODONE Injection 50 mg in 1mL	0	0	0	5	30
OXYCODONE Modified-Release Tablets 10 mg	4,577	6,847	5,844	4,290	4,084
OXYCODONE Modified-Release Tablets 20 mg	2,233	2,476	1,826	1,944	2,284
OXYCODONE Modified-Release Tablets 30 mg	0	0	0	262	308
OXYCODONE Modified-Release Tablets 40 mg	5,432	4,817	1,939	2,091	2,448
OXYCODONE Modified-Release Tablets 5 mg	1,180	2,064	1,638	1,756	1,968
OXYCODONE Modified-Release Tablets 80 mg	72	222	0	0	238
OXYCODONE Oral Solution 5 mg in 5mL	9,530	10,353	15,010	22,800	26,193
PETHIDINE Injection 100 mg in 2mL	362	400	251	308	510
PETHIDINE Injection 50 mg in 1mL	1,220	1,250	1,180	1,360	1,020
PETHIDINE Tablets 50 mg	1,132	1,506	1,456	1,752	1,379
REMIFENTANIL Injection 1 mg	0	170	0	430	115
REMIFENTANIL Injection 2 mg	1,635	1,235	1,360	400	1,075
REMIFENTANIL Injection 5 mg	0	0	0	455	142
TAPENTADOL Modified-Release Tablets 100 mg	784	607	296	336	0
TAPENTADOL Modified-Release Tablets 150 mg	28	0	56	336	0
TAPENTADOL Modified-Release Tablets 50 mg	672	2,352	336	1,758	252

TAPENTADOL Tablets 50 mg	756	882	876	0	0
TRAMADOL (AMPOULE) Injection 100 mg in 2mL	415	110	90	5	55
TRAMADOL Capsules 50 mg	33,938	19,252	15,557	14,833	14,981
TRAMADOL Modified-Release Capsules 200 mg	0	0	0	116	214
TRAMADOL Modified-Release Capsules 50 mg	2,013	1,712	624	1,078	1,737
TRAMADOL Modified-Release Tablets 100 mg	8,803	4,391	3,508	2,135	2,901
TRAMADOL Soluble Tablets 50 mg	360	0	114	144	360
Total Cost	£47,898	£58,085	£48,858	£51,315	£50,053

b) General practitioners

- Opioid (morphine-type) painkillers account for 1% of all prescription items dispensed in the community under the Health Insurance Fund (HIF), and 3% of total expenditure.
- The volume and cost of prescription opioid medicines dispensed in the community under the HIF are shown below for the past 5 years
- Compared with England, Jersey has seen lower growth in prescription volume of opioids of 30% over the past 10 years (cf 60% in England)
- Prescribing rates for opioids are lower in Jersey than in most of England. In 2017, around 260 prescriptions for an opioid per 1,000 residents were dispensed in Jersey, lower than all but 2 regions in England (see figure below)
- Opioid prescribing under the HIF is monitored. GPs receive feedback on their opioid prescribing both at practice level, as part of the JAM card [Jersey Activity Monitoring cards are distributed by the Primary Care Governance Team to GP practices and include comparative measures of performance, including prescribing], and at an individual level, as part of 1:1 reviews
- Community pharmacies are working to raise awareness of opioid misuse. There is an educational event on 30th May for community pharmacists on 'Medication Misuse' and the local branch of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society is working with Silkworth Lodge to develop 'Codeine Cards' to improve awareness around over the counter (OTC) purchases of codeine-containing medicines and management of the conditions when OTC opiates are commonly requested
- The pharmaceutical industry is regulated and representatives are no longer able to offer GPs direct incentives greater than the value of £5.

Calendar Year	Total number of opioid prescription items dispensed	Total net drug cost for opioid prescriptions
2014	28,749	£403,985.75
2015	28,166	£394,085.09
2016	28,347	£357,373.10
2017	27,632	£340,449.06
2018	28,015	£354,638.37

Opioid analgesics prescribed in 2017

Items prescribed per 1,000 residents, by NHS region



Source: NHS Digital/Openprescribing.net

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