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High-Cost Drugs

As prescribers we all have a responsibility to use NHS resources judiciously. CCG medicines management teams can produce prescribing reports to help prescribers to identify specific instances of high-cost drug prescribing in primary care, for example, where the monthly prescribing cost exceeds £200 per month. Analysis of these reports is useful for several reasons:

It could prompt a review of the patient's treatment. In some cases, if clinically appropriate, it may be possible to replace the high-cost drug with a more cost-effective preparation

It is an opportunity to check whether any of the high-cost drugs on the report are centrally commissioned drugs (eg cancer drugs) or are designated in the local formulary as 'red traffic light'. In these cases prescribing should be repatriated to the most appropriate specialist to ensure correct monitoring and review of the patient.

Complete the table (*Table 1*) to calculate the monthly and annual cost of the following drugs:

	Pack price (<i>based on Drug Tariff August 2021</i>)	Number of prescriptions issued per month	Cost per month	Annual cost (assume 13 prescriptions per year)
Haloperidol 500 microgram tablets	28 tablets = £139.74	2		
Ethosuximide 250mg capsules	56 capsules = £194.05	3		
Famciclovir 250mg tablets	21 = £258.03	1		
Ilanreotide 120mg pre-filled syringe	1 syringe = £551	4		
Atropine sulphate eye drops 1%	10ml = £131.89	3		