The Norwegian Prescribed Drug Registry

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Data source | Human | Pharmacy dispensing records

Administrative details

Administrative details

Data source ID

1000000230

Data source acronym

NorPD

Data holder

The Norwegian Institute of Public Health

Data source type

Pharmacy dispensing records

Main financial support

Funding by own institution

National, regional, or municipal public funding

Care setting

Primary care – GP, community pharmacist level

Data source qualification

If the data source has successfully undergone a formal qualification process (e.g., from the EMA, ISO or other certifications), this should be described.

No

Data source website

The Norwegian Prescribed Drug Registry

Contact details

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Main

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Data source regions and languages

Data source countries

Norway

Data source languages

Norwegian

Data source establishment

Data source established

01/01/2004

Data source time span

First collection: 01/01/2004

The date when data started to be collected or extracted.

Publications

Data source publications

Cohen JM, Alvestad S, Suarez EA, Schaffer A, Selmer RM, Havard A, Bateman BT, Cesta CE, Zoega H, Odsbu I, Huybrechts KF, Kjerpeseth LJ, Straub L, Leinonen MK, Bjørk MH, Nørgaard M, Gissler M, Ulrichsen SP, Hernandez-Diaz S, Tomson T, Furu K. Comparative risk of major congenital malformations with antiseizure medication combinations versus valproate monotherapy in pregnancy. Neurology 2024;102(2)

Studies

List of studies that have been conducted using the data source

Drug Utilisation Study of Intuniv® (guanfacine extended release) in European Countries, Study protocol I: Database study (Intuniv data base study Europe)

A Pan-European Post-Authorisation Safety Study: Risk of Pancreatic Cancer Among Type 2 Diabetes Patients who Initiated Exenatide as Compared with those who Initiated Other non-Glucagon-Like Peptide 1 Receptor Agonists based Glucose Lowering Drugs (EXCEED)

PaTernal exposure to vAlproate, further iNvestiGation on the risk of NeuroDevelopmental Disorders (NDD) and Major Congenital Malformation (MCM) in Offspring: A Non-Interventional Post-Authorization Safety Study (TANGO)

Data elements collected

The data source contains the following information

Disease information

Does the data source collect information with a focus on a specific disease? This might be a patient registry or other similar initiatives.

No

Rare diseases

Are rare diseases captured? In the European Union a rare disease is one that affects no more than 5 people in 10,000.

No

Pregnancy and/or neonates

Does the data source collect information on pregnant women and/or neonatal subpopulation (under 28 days of age)?

Yes

Hospital admission and/or discharge

No

ICU admission

Is information on intensive care unit admission available?

No

Cause of death

Not Captured

Prescriptions of medicines

Not Captured

Dispensing of medicines

Captured

Dispensing vocabulary

ATC

Advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMP)

Is information on advanced therapy medicinal products included? A medicinal product for human use that is either a gene therapy medicinal product, a somatic cell therapy product or a tissue engineered products as defined in Regulation (EC) No 1394/2007 [Reg (EC) No 1394/2007 Art 1(1)].

No

Contraception

Is information on the use of any type of contraception (oral, injectable, devices etc.) available?

Yes

Indication for use

Does the data source capture information on the therapeutic indication for the use of medicinal products?

Not Captured

Medical devices

Is information on medicinal devices (e.g., pens, syringes, inhalers) available?

No

Administration of vaccines

No

Procedures

Does the data source capture information on procedures (e.g., diagnostic tests, therapeutic, surgical interventions)?

Not Captured

Healthcare provider

Is information on the person providing healthcare (e.g., physician, pharmacist, specialist) available? The healthcare provider refers to individual health professionals or a health facility organisation licensed to provide health care diagnosis and treatment services including medication, surgery and medical devices.

Yes

Clinical measurements

Is information on clinical measurements (e.g., BMI, blood pressure, height) available?

No

Genetic data

Are data related to genotyping, genome sequencing available?

Not Captured

Biomarker data

Does the data source capture biomarker information? The term “biomarker” refers to a broad subcategory of medical signs (objective indications of medical state observed from outside the patient), which can be measured accurately and reproducibly. For example, haematological assays, infectious disease markers or metabolomic biomarkers.

Not Captured

Patient-reported outcomes

Is information on patient-reported outcomes (e.g., quality of life) available?

No

Patient-generated data

Is patient-generated information (e.g., from wearable devices) available?

No

Units of healthcare utilisation

Are units of healthcare utilisation (e.g., number of visits to GP per year, number of hospital days) available or can they be derived? Units of healthcare utilisation refer to the quantification of the use of services for the purpose of preventing or curing health problems.

No

Unique identifier for persons

Are patients uniquely identified in the data source?

Yes

Diagnostic codes

Not Captured

Medicinal product information

Captured

Medicinal product information collected

Active ingredient(s)

Brand name

Dose

Formulation

Package size

Strength

Medicinal product vocabulary

ATC

Quality of life measurements

Not Captured

Lifestyle factors

Not Captured

Sociodemographic information

Captured

Sociodemographic information collected

Age

Gender

Other

Sociodemographic information other

Place of residence, profession and any specialty

Quantitative descriptors

Population Qualitative Data

Population age groups

All

Paediatric Population (< 18 years)

Preterm newborn infants (0 – 27 days)

Children (2 to < 12 years)

Adolescents (12 to < 18 years)

Adult and elderly population (≥18 years)

Adults (18 to < 65 years)

Adults (18 to < 46 years)

Adults (46 to < 65 years)

Elderly (≥ 65 years)

Adults (65 to < 75 years)

Adults (75 to < 85 years)

Adults (85 years and over)

Estimated percentage of the population covered by the data source in the catchment area

Data are automatically collected from pharmacies mandated by law. The percentage of the population covered were estimated to be 99% in 2024.

Description of the population covered by the data source in the catchment area whose data are not collected (e.g., people who are registered only for private care)

Individuals who do not have a national personal identity number are registered in the registry with an unknown identity number. The youngest population (i.e. individuals <2 years) have a higher percentage of unknown identity. Missing dispensing records are mostly due to incomplete registration and reporting in the pharmacy.

Population

Population size

6400000

Active population size

4100000

Data flows and management

Access and validation

Governance details

Documents or webpages that describe the overall governance of the data source and processes and procedures for data capture and management, data quality check and validation results (governing data access or utilisation for research purposes).

Helsedata

Biospecimen access

Are biospecimens available in the data source (e.g., tissue samples)?

No

Access to subject details

Can individual patients/practitioners/practices included in the data source be contacted?

No

Description of data collection

Data are automatically reported from the pharmacies. The data collection is mandated by law.

Event triggering registration

Event triggering registration of a person in the data source

Other

Event triggering registration of a person in the data source, other

Prescription dispensing in pharmacy

Event triggering creation of a record in the data source

Prescription dispensing in pharmacy

Data source linkage

Linkage

Is the data source described created by the linkage of other data sources (prelinked data source) and/or can the data source be linked to other data source on an ad-hoc basis?

Yes

Linkage description, pre-linked

The NorPD is pre-linked to the Health Personnel Registry, the National Population Register and pharmacy information from the Norwegian Medicinal Products Agency.

Linkage description, possible linkage

Data from the registry can be linked to all other data sources by the unique identity number for the individuals. Data linkage requires approval from the involved registries. Application form is available from helsedata.no.

Data management specifications that apply for the data source

Data source refresh

Quarterly

Informed consent for use of data for research

Not Required

Possibility of data validation

Can validity of the data in the data source be verified (e.g., access to original medical charts)?

No

Data source preservation

Are records preserved in the data source indefinitely?

Yes

Approval for publication

Is an approval needed for publishing the results of a study using the data source?

No

Data source last refresh

30/09/2025

Common Data Model (CDM) mapping

CDM mapping

Has the data source been converted (ETL-ed) to a common data model?

No