

- 4 OCT 2016

No.1 The Terrace  
PO Box 5013  
Wellington 6145  
New Zealand  
T+64 4 496 2000

Belinda Hodson  
fyi-request-4574-9f8e1614@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H201603645

Dear Belinda Hodson

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request of 7 September 2016 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for "The total number of patients in New Zealand prescribed thyroid medications, by medication name eg, Eltroxin, Synthroid, Cytomol, Goldshield as at 30th July 2016. If it is not possible to provide the breakdown by medication name then I would like the total number of patients prescribed medications for 2016".

Please find attached a table presenting the number of patients receiving government-subsidised community-dispensed Thyroid and Antithyroid medications for the financial year 2015/16.

If you have any queries about this data, please contact Simon Ross, Manager, Analytical Services, Ministry of Health by phone on (04) 496-2000, by fax on (04) 816-2898 or by email ([data-enquiries@moh.govt.nz](mailto:data-enquiries@moh.govt.nz)).

I trust this information fulfils your request.

Yours sincerely



Deb Struthers  
**Chief Client Officer**  
**Client Insight and Analytics**

**Number of patients receiving government-subsidised community-dispensed Thyroid and Antithyroid medications in financial year 2015/16**

Source: Ministry of Health Pharmaceutical Collection extracted September 2016

Chemical ID	Chemical Name	Brand name	Number of patients
1221	Carbimazole	Neo-Mercazole	9,059
2062	Propylthiouracil	PTU	482
2263	Levothyroxine	Eltroxin	80,305
2263	Levothyroxine	Synthroid	24,969
2264	Levothyroxine (mercury pharma)	Mercury Pharma	23,189

<b>Number of patients receiving any Thyroid/Antithyroid agents</b>	<b>127,344</b>
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**Note:**

This data does not include dispensings of non subsidised medications.

Thyroid and Antithyroid dispensings are defined as having a Therapeutic Group 3 of "Thyroid and Antithyroid Agents".

A patient may be dispensed more than one medication in the period, therefore the sum of the patients receiving the individual chemicals is greater than the number of patients receiving any of the agents.

As pharmacies may submit claims up to three months after the date of dispensing, drugs that have been dispensed but not claimed by the pharmacy are not included in this data.

