



# FAQs

## 1. What is the EPiC dashboard?

EPiC stands for Evaluating Prescribing to inform Care and this dashboard is a new user-friendly tool that allows primary care clinicians to explore prescribing trends for patients enrolled at their practice, at similar practices, and nationally. Over time it will allow clinicians to visualise their prescribing data for four focus conditions (diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma, and gout) in a variety of different ways.

## 2. Why was the EPiC dashboard launched?

The EPiC dashboard is part of the delivery of a PHARMAC contract for the Responsible Use of Medicines. Airmed (a health data science company based in Dunedin) combined forces with The Health Media (a health communication company based in Auckland) to provide data analysis and visualisations and educational resources to help promote and encourage more equitable prescribing practices.

## 3. Who is the intended audience?

The intended audience is primary care prescribers, these could be GPs, nurse practitioners or pharmacist prescribers. Each will have an individual login allowing them to view their own prescribing data along with their practice (if applicable) and their peers' data. National level prescribing data will be available for anyone interested in viewing this.

## 4. How do I sign up to access the EPiC dashboard?

You can sign up here:

[www.akohiringa.co.nz/epic-dashboard](https://www.akohiringa.co.nz/epic-dashboard)

When you initially sign up you will need to verify yourself using either a real me account or using your identification documents (e.g. Driver Licence)

## 5. Where do you get your data?

Our data are sourced from the Ministry of Health datasets. For the first dashboard, the two data sources utilised are The Pharmaceutical Collection and the PHO Enrolment Collection. Future dashboards may include data from the National Minimum Dataset (NMDS; hospital discharges), the Maternity Collection and from PMS systems.

## 6. How old are the data?

Data for each dashboard will be updated every quarter with a maximum one-month delay in receiving the data from the Ministry of Health.

## 7. How does the EPiC dashboard differ from the HQSC Atlas of Healthcare Variation dashboard?

The EPiC dashboard does have some similarities to the HQSC Atlas of Healthcare Variation dashboard, especially in its goal of achieving medicines equity. The EPiC dashboard differs in that it displays data down to an individual practice or prescriber level.

## 8. How do I find out more about the methodology used in the EPiC dashboard?

Extra information about data methodology can be found in the data methodology document here:

<https://www.akohiringa.co.nz/epic-dashboard>

## 9. How do I read the dashboard?

A new EPiC dashboard will be available every three months and will present prescribing data in varying ways. The best (and easiest!) way to understand how to read the first diabetes dashboard is to watch our very short how-to videos which step through each of the dashboard elements with examples.