

Supplementary Table 1: Multivariable analysis of initiation on each antihypertensive class as compared to all other classes

	ACE inhibitors		ARBs		Thiazide diuretics		Beta-blockers		Calcium channel blockers	
	OR (95% CI)	p-value	OR (95% CI)	p-value	OR (95% CI)	p-value	OR (95% CI)	p-value	OR (95% CI)	p-value
Year of initiation										
2008/09	1.00 (0.94-1.06)	<0.001	1.01 (0.95-1.08)	<0.001	1.87 (1.67-2.10)	<0.001	0.82 (0.75-0.88)	<0.001	0.85 (0.78-0.92)	<0.001
2009/10	0.90 (0.84-0.95)		1.10 (1.03-1.18)		1.70 (1.52-1.91)		0.87 (0.80-0.95)		0.88 (0.81-0.96)	
2010/11	0.90 (0.85-0.96)		1.12 (1.05-1.19)		1.36 (1.21-1.54)		0.95 (0.88-1.03)		0.87 (0.80-0.95)	
2011/12	0.88 (0.83-0.94)		1.17 (1.10-1.25)		1.15 (1.01-1.30)		0.86 (0.79-0.94)		1.04 (0.96-1.13)	
2012/13	0.96 (0.90-1.02)		0.99 (0.92-1.06)		0.97 (0.85-1.10)		1.07 (0.99-1.16)		1.00 (0.92-1.09)	
2013/14	1.00 (Ref)		1.00 (Ref)		1.00 (Ref)		1.00 (Ref)		1.00 (Ref)	
Age										
18-49 years	0.80 (0.76-0.84)	<0.001	0.76 (0.72-0.81)	<0.001	1.41 (1.28-1.55)	<0.001	1.62 (1.50-1.73)	<0.001	1.19 (1.11-1.29)	<0.001
50-59 years	1.01 (0.95-1.07)		1.02 (0.96-1.08)		1.03 (0.93-1.16)		0.98 (0.90-1.07)		0.97 (0.89-1.05)	
60-69 years	1.00 (Ref)		1.00 (Ref)		1.00 (Ref)		1.00 (Ref)		1.00 (Ref)	
70-79 years	1.04 (0.99-1.09)		0.84 (0.80-0.88)		1.09 (0.99-1.19)		1.12 (1.05-1.20)		1.06 (0.99-1.13)	
80+ years	1.15 (1.09-1.22)		0.64 (0.60-0.68)		1.04 (0.93-1.17)		1.36 (1.26-1.47)		1.08 (1.00-1.18)	
Female sex	0.80 (0.77-0.83)	<0.001	1.05 (1.01-1.10)	0.008	1.81 (1.69-1.94)	<0.001	0.98 (0.94-1.03)	0.47	1.07 (1.02-1.13)	0.006
Number of medicines dispensed in year prior										
Quartile 1 (1-2)	1.00 (Ref)	<0.001	1.00 (Ref)	<0.001	1.00 (Ref)	<0.001	1.00 (Ref)	<0.001	1.00 (Ref)	<0.001
Quartile 2 (3-4)	0.95 (0.90-1.00)		0.95 (0.90-1.01)		1.08 (0.98-1.19)		1.14 (1.06-1.22)		0.99 (0.93-1.07)	
Quartile 3 (5-7)	0.89 (0.84-0.94)		0.91 (0.86-0.96)		1.27 (1.15-1.41)		1.24 (1.16-1.33)		1.01 (0.93-1.08)	
Quartile 4 (≥8)	0.75 (0.71-0.80)		0.87 (0.81-0.93)		1.50 (1.34-1.68)		1.38 (1.27-1.50)		1.20 (1.11-1.31)	
Dispensed medicines for management of:*										
Angina	1.00 (0.91-1.10)	0.93	0.36 (0.31-0.42)	<0.001	0.38 (0.29-0.50)	<0.001	2.54 (2.29-2.82)	<0.001	1.21 (1.06-1.37)	0.004
Depression	1.06 (1.01-1.10)	0.02	0.92 (0.88-0.97)		0.97 (0.89-1.05)	0.40	<i>1.06 (1.00-1.12)</i>	<i>0.05</i>	0.98 (0.92-1.04)	0.55
Diabetes	2.15 (2.02-2.28)	<0.001	0.90 (0.84-0.96)		<i>0.54 (0.48-0.62)</i>	<i><0.001</i>	<i>0.47 (0.43-0.52)</i>	<i><0.001</i>	0.65 (0.59-0.72)	<0.001
Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease	1.01 (0.96-1.05)	0.83	0.97 (0.93-1.02)		0.98 (0.91-1.06)	0.58	1.03 (0.97-1.08)		1.02 (0.97-1.08)	0.44
Gout	1.00 (0.91-1.11)	0.93	1.21 (1.09-1.34)		<i>0.83 (0.68-1.02)</i>	<i>0.07</i>	0.90 (0.79-1.03)	0.37	0.88 (0.77-1.02)	0.08
Heart failure	1.37 (1.27-1.47)	<0.001	0.61 (0.56-0.67)		1.17 (1.03-1.33)	0.02	1.19 (1.09-1.31)	<0.001	<i>0.79 (0.71-0.88)</i>	<i><0.001</i>
Hyperlipidaemia	1.13 (1.08-1.17)	<0.001	1.00 (0.95-1.04)		0.81 (0.75-0.88)	<0.001	1.00 (0.95-1.06)	0.90	0.89 (0.84-0.95)	<0.001
Obstructive airway disease	1.04 (1.00-1.09)	0.08	1.04 (0.99-1.10)		1.08 (0.99-1.18)	0.07	<i>0.67 (0.62-0.71)</i>	<i><0.001</i>	1.24 (1.17-1.33)	<0.001
Initiation on fixed dose antihypertensive combination										
	0.93 (0.86-1.01)	0.07	14.48 (4.13-4.85)		52.06 (47.25-57.35)	<0.001	--	--	2.89 (2.65-3.15)	<0.001
Initiation on multiple medicines										
	3.40 (3.12-3.72)	<0.001	1.12 (1.02-1.22)		4.52 (4.06-5.04)	<0.001	7.59 (6.96-8.27)	<0.001	5.76 (5.29-6.28)	<0.001

*Reference category for each condition is those with no evidence of dispensed medicines for each health condition

Bold represents first-line therapy classified as “potentially beneficial” in the guidelines. *Italic* represents first-line therapy classified as “potentially harmful” in the guidelines.