



All Wales Therapeutics
and Toxicology Centre
Canolfan Therapiwteg a
Thocsicoleg Cymru Gyfan

National Prescribing Indicators 2015–2016

Analysis of Prescribing Data to December 2015





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and Toxicology Centre

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This report has been prepared by the Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit (WAPSU), part of the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre (AWTTC).

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) has endorsed the National Prescribing Indicators (NPIs) as a means of promoting safe and cost-effective prescribing since 2003.
- For 2015–2016, there are 13 NPIs focusing on eight areas of prescribing and the reporting of adverse events (Yellow Cards)*. Two of the indicators, proton pump inhibitors and inhaled corticosteroids, are new for 2015–2016.
- A threshold level of prescribing/reporting is set for 12 of the 13 NPIs*.
- For those NPIs which were in place for 2014–2015, there was an overall improvement in Wales in line with the aim of each indicator with a threshold, compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year (December 2014).
- At a national level, the NPIs associated with the largest changes in prescribing compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year were co-amoxiclav items per 1,000 patients (18% reduction) and cephalosporin items per 1,000 patients (15% reduction).
- Hypnotic and anxiolytic prescribing decreased across all of the health boards compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year. The largest decrease was seen in Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) (14%).
- The prescribing of morphine and tramadol continued to change in line with the aims of the indicators across all health boards.
- The total number of antibacterial items decreased in all health boards compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year: on average by 8% across Wales.
- Prescribing of co-amoxiclav (items per 1,000 patients) decreased in all but one of the health boards compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year. The largest decreases were seen in Cardiff and Vale (30%) and Cwm Taf (26%) UHBs.
- Prescribing of cephalosporins (items per 1,000 patients) decreased in all of the health boards compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year. The largest decreases were seen in Cardiff and Vale (27%) and Aneurin Bevan (23%) UHBs.
- Prescribing of fluoroquinolones (items per 1,000 patients) decreased in six of the seven health boards compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year. The largest decrease was seen in Betsi Cadwaladr UHB (13%). There was an increase in prescribing in Hywel Dda.

Future quarterly NPI reports for 2015–2016 will be available on the following dates:

Quarter to March 2016: July 2016

* For full details, including unit of measure and threshold for each indicator, please see Appendix 1. For prescribing data for GP clusters, please see Appendix 2.

1.0 PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS

This indicator has been re-introduced as an NPI for 2015–2016.

Although proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) are generally well tolerated, there is emerging evidence that serious adverse effects may be linked with long-term PPI use. These include fractures of the hip, wrist and spine, *Clostridium difficile* infection, hospital- or community-acquired pneumonia, hypomagnesaemia and a very low risk of subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus.

PPI use (measured in DDDs per 1,000 PUs) continued to increase across all health boards in Wales. There was a 4% increase in Wales compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year. In the quarter to December 2015, prescribing in Wales was 18% higher than that in England.

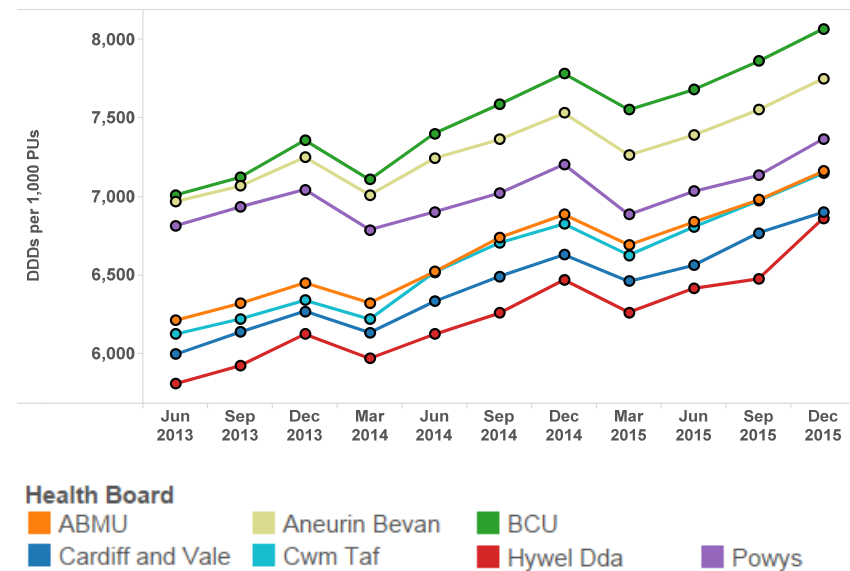
The aim of this indicator is to ensure appropriate use of PPIs and to encourage a review and reduction in prescribing where possible.

- For the quarter ending December 2015, PPI usage ranged from 6,862 to 8,067 DDDs per 1,000 PUs across the health boards.
- The health board with the lowest prescribing was Hywel Dda UHB, whilst the highest prescribing was seen in Betsi Cadwaladr UHB.
- PPI prescribing for the quarter ending December 2015 was greater than the equivalent quarter of the previous year across all of the health boards.
- The smallest percentage increase compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year was seen in Powys Teaching HB and the largest increase was seen in Hywel Dda UHB.

Table 1. PPI DDDs per 1,000 PUs

	2014–2015 Qtr3	2015–2016 Qtr3	% change
Powys	7,204	7,367	2.26%
Aneurin Bevan	7,530	7,750	2.92%
BCU	7,782	8,067	3.66%
ABMU	6,885	7,161	4.00%
Cardiff and Vale	6,630	6,900	4.08%
Cwm Taf	6,826	7,148	4.72%
Hywel Dda	6,470	6,862	6.06%
Wales	7,127	7,407	3.93%

Figure 1. Trend in PPI prescribing DDDs per 1,000 PUs



2.0 LIPID-MODIFYING DRUGS

This indicator aims to promote the prescribing of statins with a low acquisition cost (LAC) over more expensive lipid-lowering treatments.

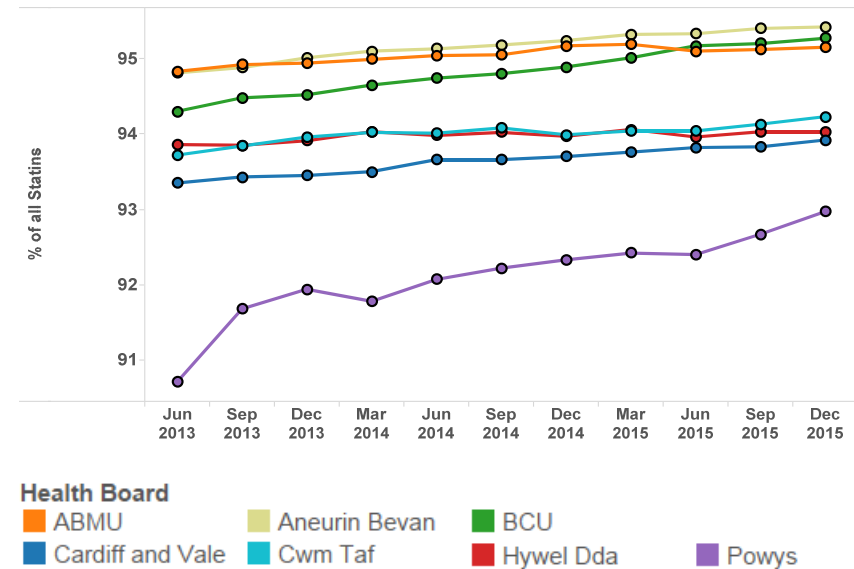
The proportion of LAC statin prescribing continues to increase in line with the aim of the indicator over time. However, the rate of increase has slowed since the Welsh health board average reached 94% in June 2013.

- For the quarter ending December 2015, the proportion of LAC statin prescribing ranged from 93.0% to 95.4% across the health boards.
- The health board with the highest prescribing rate was Aneurin Bevan UHB, whilst the lowest prescribing was seen in Powys Teaching HB.
- The proportion of LAC statin prescribing increased compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year in all health boards except for Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB.
- The largest percentage increase was seen in Powys Teaching HB.

Table 2. LAC statins as a percentage of all statin, ezetimibe and simvastatin/ezetimibe combination prescribing

	2014–2015 Qtr3	2015–2016 Qtr3	% change
Powys	92.3	93.0	0.69%
BCU	94.9	95.3	0.40%
Cwm Taf	94.0	94.2	0.26%
Cardiff and Vale	93.7	93.9	0.23%
Aneurin Bevan	95.2	95.4	0.19%
Hywel Dda	94.0	94.0	0.06%
ABMU	95.2	95.2	-0.02%
Wales	94.5	94.7	0.21%

Figure 2. Trend in LAC statin prescribing as a percentage of all statin, ezetimibe and simvastatin/ezetimibe combination prescribing



3.0 INHALED CORTICOSTEROIDS

This is a new indicator for 2015–2016.

The aim of this indicator is to encourage the routine review of inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) in people with asthma, particularly those on high strengths, encouraging step down of the strength when clinically appropriate.

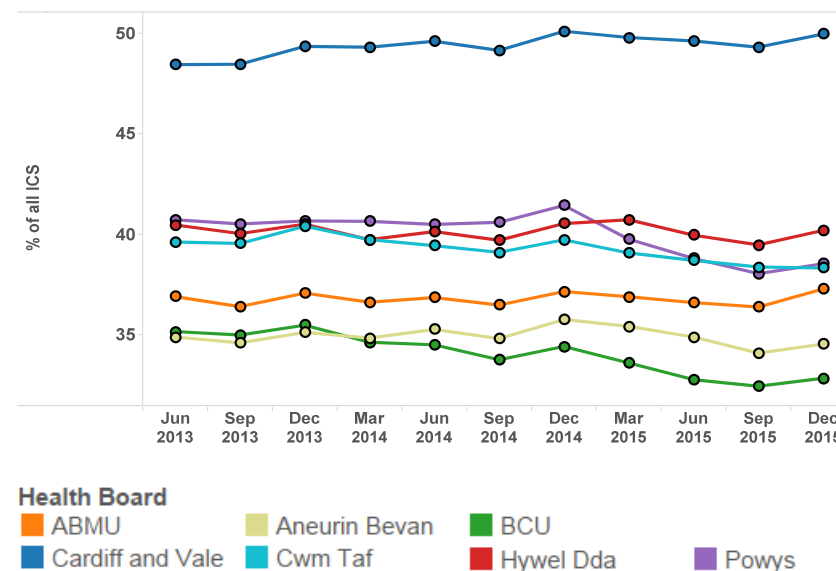
An increase in the proportion of low strength ICS usage as a percentage of total ICS usage would suggest that prescribing is changing in line with the aim of the indicator. However, there was an overall decrease in the proportion of low-strength ICS prescribed in the quarter to December 2015 compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year.

- For the quarter ending December 2015, the proportion of low strength ICS prescribing ranged from 32.9% to 50.0% across the health boards.
- The health board with the highest percentage of low strength ICS prescribing was Cardiff and Vale UHB, whilst the lowest prescribing was seen in Betsi Cadwaladr UHB.
- The proportion of low strength ICS prescribing compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year only increased in one of the seven health boards: Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB.
- A decrease in the percentage of low strength ICS prescribing was seen in all other health boards. The smallest decrease was seen in Cardiff and Vale UHB, and the largest decrease was seen in Powys Teaching HB.

Table 3. Low strength ICS prescribing as a percentage of all ICS prescribing

	2014–2015 Qtr3	2015–2016 Qtr3	% change
ABMU	37.2	37.3	0.35%
Cardiff and Vale	50.1	50.0	-0.28%
Hywel Dda	40.5	40.2	-0.84%
Aneurin Bevan	35.8	34.6	-3.41%
Cwm Taf	39.7	38.3	-3.52%
BCU	34.4	32.9	-4.59%
Powys	41.4	38.5	-7.00%
Wales	38.8	37.9	-2.40%

Figure 3. Trend in low strength ICS prescribing as a percentage of all ICS prescribing



4.0 HYPNOTICS AND ANXIOLYTICS

There has been ongoing concern with regard to the high level of anxiolytic and hypnotic prescribing within NHS Wales. Some prescribing may be inappropriate and contribute to the problem of physical and psychological dependence, and/or may be responsible for masking underlying depression.

This indicator aims to reduce inappropriate prescribing of hypnotics and anxiolytics.

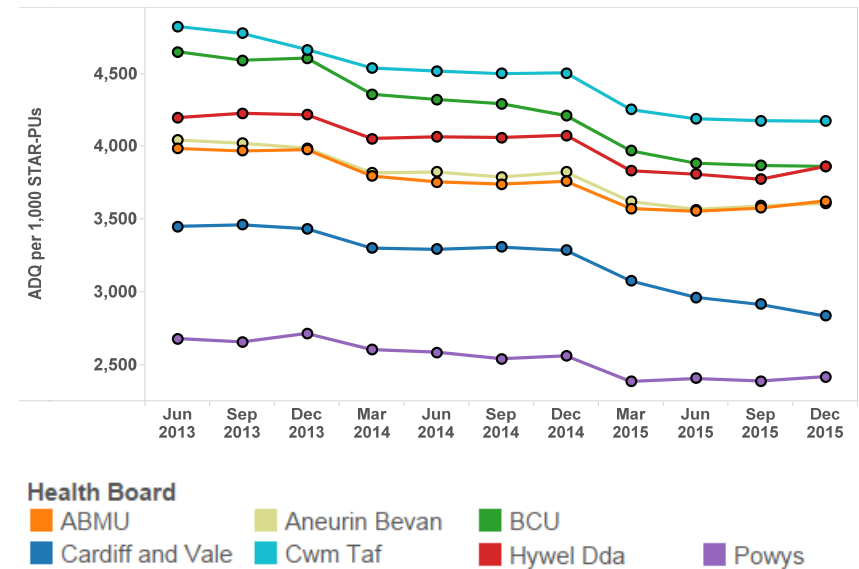
The prescribing of hypnotics and anxiolytics continues to decrease across Wales, in line with the aim of this indicator. However, prescribing (measured as ADQs per 1,000 STAR-PU (13)) remained 50% higher than that seen in England for the quarter to December 2015.

- For the quarter ending December 2015, hypnotic and anxiolytic prescribing ranged from 2,419 to 4,171 ADQs per 1,000 STAR-PU (13) across the health boards.
- The health board with the highest prescribing was Cwm Taf UHB, whilst the lowest prescribing was seen in Powys Teaching HB.
- Hypnotic and anxiolytic prescribing decreased compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year in all of the health boards.
- The largest decrease was seen in Cardiff and Vale UHB, and the smallest decrease was seen in Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB.

Table 4. Hypnotic and anxiolytic ADQs per 1,000 STAR-PU (13)

	2014–2015 Qtr3	2015–2016 Qtr3	% change
Cardiff and Vale	3,284	2,833	-13.7%
BCU	4,210	3,861	-8.29%
Cwm Taf	4,504	4,171	-7.38%
Aneurin Bevan	3,821	3,608	-5.59%
Powys	2,561	2,419	-5.55%
Hywel Dda	4,075	3,861	-5.27%
ABMU	3,758	3,625	-3.55%
Wales	3,861	3,589	-7.04%

Figure 4. Trend in hypnotic and anxiolytic prescribing ADQs per 1,000 STAR-PU (13)



5.0 OPIOID ANALGESICS

There are two NPIs monitoring the usage of opioid analgesics for 2015–2016:

1. Morphine items as a percentage of strong opioid prescribing
2. Tramadol usage measured as DDDs per 1,000 patients

5.1 Morphine as a percentage of strong opioid prescribing

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence Clinical Guideline 140 (CG140) recommends oral modified-release morphine as the first-line maintenance treatment for patients with advanced and progressive disease who require strong opioids.

The efficacy and safety of morphine is established in clinical practice. There is a lack of evidence from high-quality comparative trials that other opioids have advantages in terms of either efficacy or side effects that would make them preferable to morphine for first-line use in cancer pain.

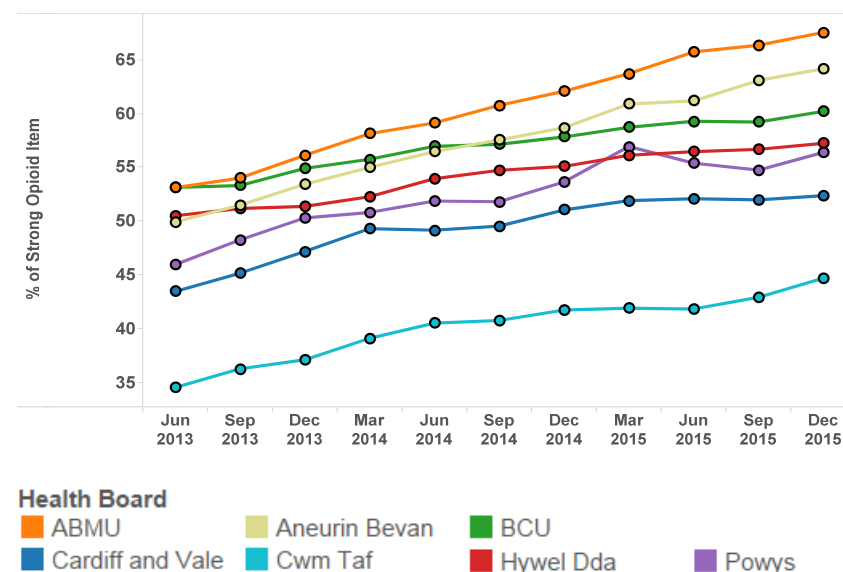
This NPI aims to encourage first-line use of morphine for patients requiring a strong opioid analgesic.

- For the quarter ending December 2015, the proportion of morphine prescribing as a percentage of strong opioids ranged from 44.7 to 67.5 across the health boards.
- The health board prescribing the highest percentage of morphine items was Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB, whilst the lowest prescribing was seen in Cwm Taf UHB.
- The proportion of morphine prescribing increased compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year in all of the health boards.
- The largest increase was seen in Aneurin Bevan UHB, and the smallest increase was seen in Cardiff and Vale UHB.

Table 5. Morphine as a percentage of strong opioid prescribing

	2014–2015 Qtr3	2015–2016 Qtr3	% change
Aneurin Bevan	58.7	64.1	9.34%
ABMU	62.1	67.5	8.82%
Cwm Taf	41.7	44.7	7.10%
Powys	53.6	56.4	5.11%
BCU	57.8	60.2	4.12%
Hywel Dda	55.1	57.2	3.90%
Cardiff and Vale	51.0	52.3	2.61%
Wales	55.6	58.2	4.71%

Figure 5. Trend in morphine prescribing as a percentage of strong opioid prescribing



5.2 Tramadol

Tramadol accounts for a significant number of deaths and reports to the National Poisons Information Service. It is subject to abuse and dependence and there are concerns with regard to drug interactions.

This NPI aims to encourage the appropriate use and review of tramadol.

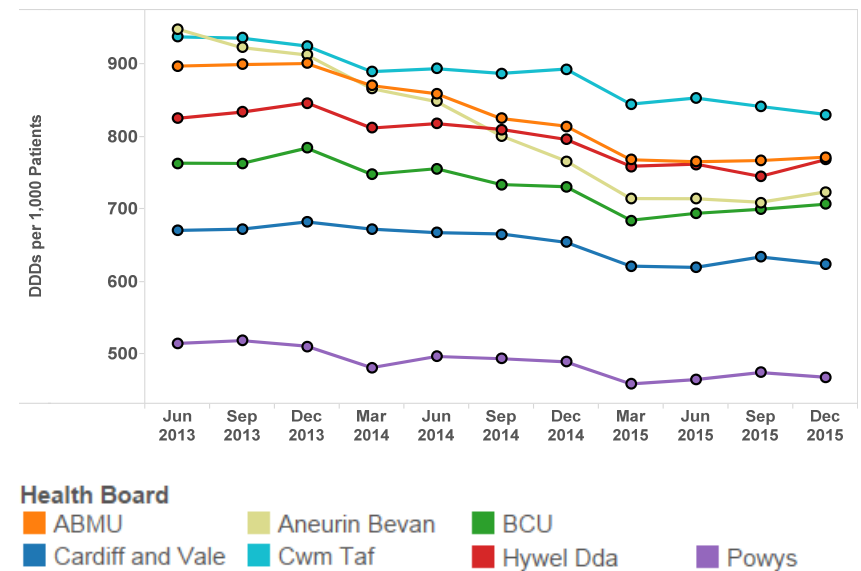
For the quarter to December 2015, prescribing of tramadol decreased across Wales compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year, in line with the aim of this indicator.

- For the quarter ending December 2015, tramadol prescribing ranged from 468 to 830 DDDs per 1,000 patients across the health boards.
- The health board with the lowest prescribing was Powys Teaching HB, whilst the highest prescribing was seen in Cwm Taf UHB.
- Tramadol prescribing decreased compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year in all of the health boards.
- The largest decrease was seen in Cwm Taf UHB (7%) with the smallest decrease in Betsi Cadwaladr UHB.

Table 6. Tramadol DDDs per 1,000 patients

	2014–2015 Qtr3	2015–2016 Qtr3	% change
Cwm Taf	892	830	-6.99%
Aneurin Bevan	765	723	-5.56%
ABMU	813	771	-5.26%
Cardiff and Vale	653	624	-4.54%
Powys	489	468	-4.31%
Hywel Dda	795	768	-3.51%
BCU	730	706	-3.30%
Wales	752	716	-4.75%

Figure 6. Trend in tramadol prescribing DDDs per 1,000 patients



6.0 ANTIBIOTICS

The development of NPIs for antibiotic prescribing supports one of the key elements of the Welsh Antimicrobial Resistance Programme: to inform, support and promote the prudent use of antimicrobials.

There are four antibiotic NPIs for 2015–2016:

1. Total antibacterial items
2. Co-amoxiclav
3. Cephalosporins
4. Fluoroquinolones

6.1 Total antibacterial items

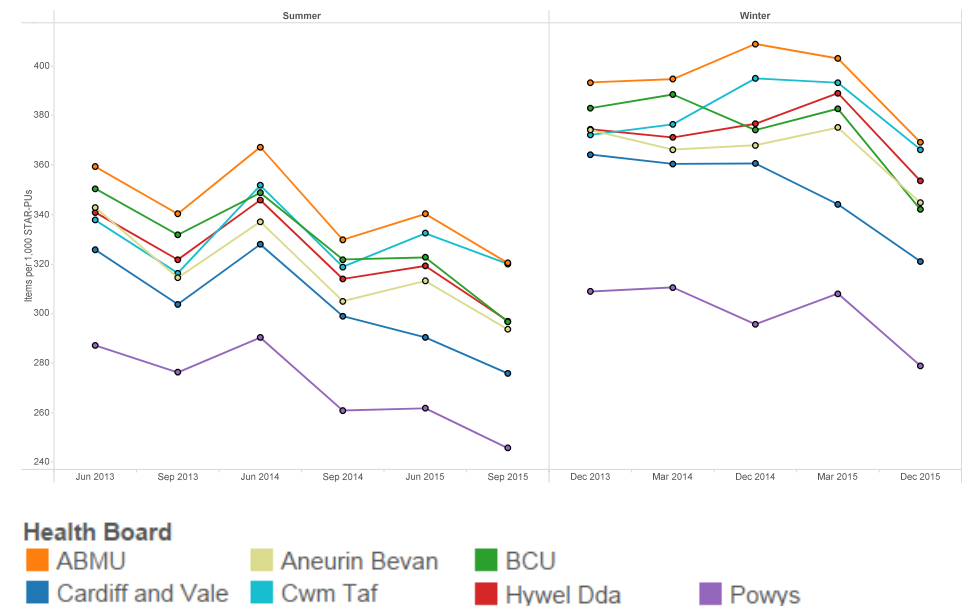
No target is set for this indicator due to seasonal variations in prescribing, although a reduction in prescribing year on year is encouraged, with measurement based on data from quarter ending December.

- For the quarter ending December 2015, the total number of antibacterial items per 1,000 STAR-PU (13) ranged from 279 to 369 across the health boards.
- The health board with the lowest prescribing was Powys Teaching HB, whilst the highest prescribing was seen in Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB.
- The total number of antibacterial items decreased compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year in all health boards.
- The largest decrease was seen in Cardiff and Vale UHB, and the smallest decrease in Powys Teaching HB.

Table 7. Total antibacterial items per 1,000 STAR-PU (13)

	2014–2015 Qtr3	2015–2016 Qtr3	% change
Cardiff and Vale	361	321	-11.0%
ABMU	409	369	-9.72%
BCU	374	342	-8.57%
Cwm Taf	395	366	-7.27%
Aneurin Bevan	368	345	-6.32%
Hywel Dda	377	354	-6.13%
Powys	296	279	-5.67%
Wales	376	345	-8.18%

Figure 7. Trend in antibacterial prescribing items per 1,000 STAR-PU (13)



6.2 Co-amoxiclav, cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones

Prescribing of co-amoxiclav, cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones is monitored, as these antibacterials are associated with an increased risk of *Clostridium difficile* infection.

Each of these antibacterial indicators is monitored using two measures:

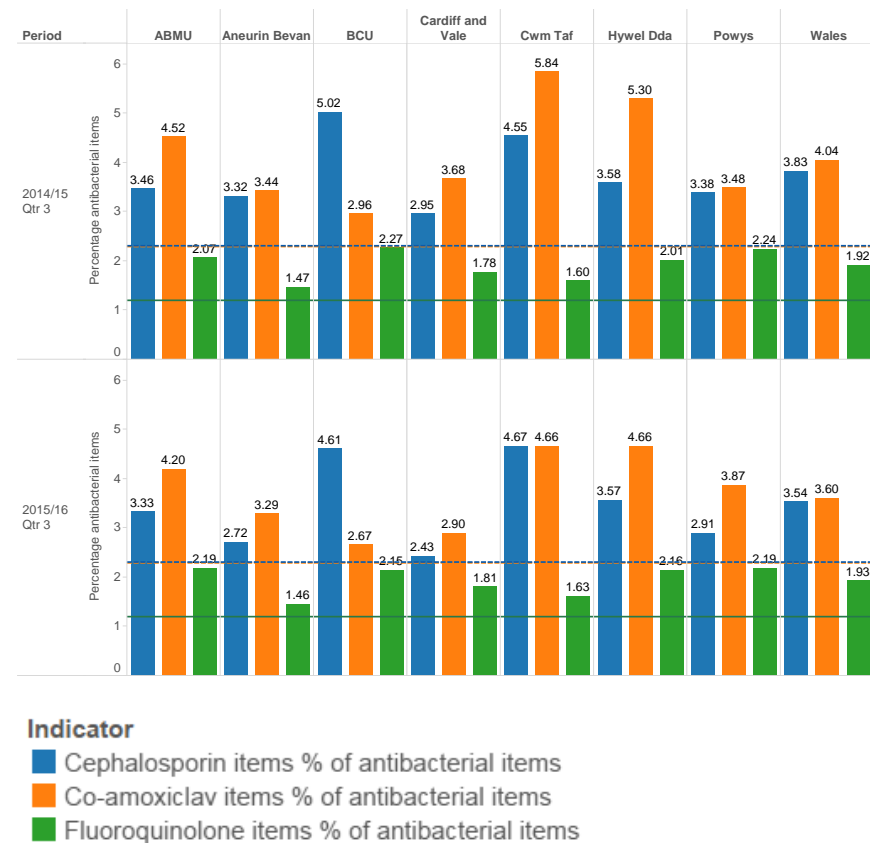
1. Items as a percentage of total antibacterial items
2. Items per 1,000 patients

6.2.1 Co-amoxiclav, cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones as a percentage of total antibacterial items

For the quarter to December 2015 the number of items of co-amoxiclav and cephalosporins as a percentage of all antibacterial prescribing decreased across Wales compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year, in line with the aim of this indicator. There was a small increase in the proportion of fluoroquinolone prescribing.

- The proportion of co-amoxiclav prescribing decreased compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year in six of the seven health boards. The largest decrease was seen in Cardiff and Vale UHB (21%), and the smallest decrease was seen in Aneurin Bevan UHB. There was an increase of 11% in Powys Teaching HB.
- The proportion of cephalosporin prescribing decreased compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year in six of the seven health boards. The largest decrease was seen in Aneurin Bevan UHB (18%), and the smallest decrease was seen in Hywel Dda UHB (0.3%). There was an increase of 2.6% in Cwm Taf UHB.
- The proportion of fluoroquinolone prescribing decreased compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year in three of the seven health boards. The largest decrease was seen in Betsi Cadwaladr UHB, with the smallest decrease seen in Aneurin Bevan UHB. There were increases in Abertawe Bro Morgannwg, Cardiff and Vale, Cwm Taf and Hywel Dda UHBs.

Figure 8. Co-amoxiclav, cephalosporins and fluoroquinolones as a percentage of total antibacterial prescribing



6.2.2 Co-amoxiclav items per 1,000 patients

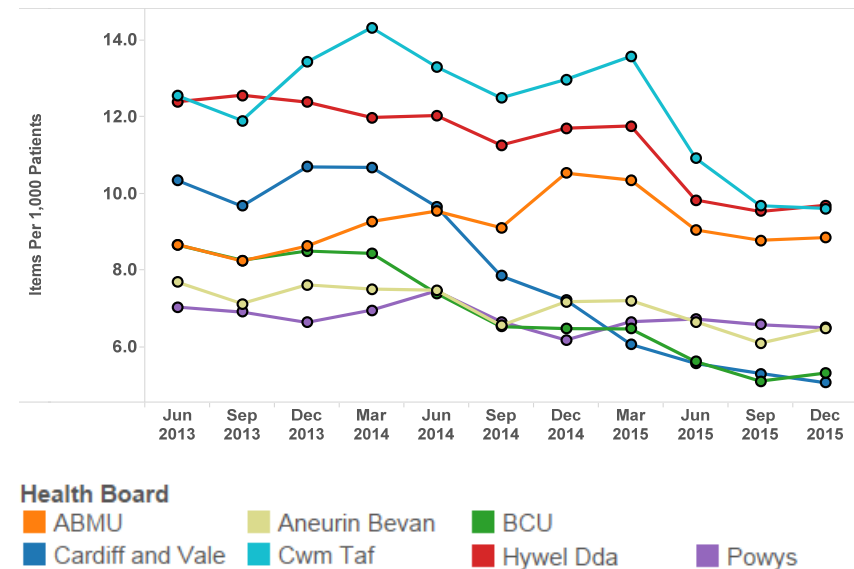
For the quarter to December 2015 prescribing of co-amoxiclav items per 1,000 patients decreased across Wales by approximately 18% compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year, in line with the aim of this indicator.

- For the quarter ending December 2015, co-amoxiclav prescribing ranged from 5.06 to 9.68 items per 1,000 patients across the health boards.
- The health board with the lowest prescribing was Cardiff and Vale UHB, whilst the highest prescribing was seen in Hywel Dda and Cwm Taf UHBs.
- Co-amoxiclav prescribing decreased compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year in all health boards except for Powys Teaching HB.
- The largest decrease was seen in Cardiff and Vale UHB (30%).

Table 8. Co-amoxiclav items per 1,000 patients

	2014–2015 Qtr3	2015–2016 Qtr3	% change
Cardiff and Vale	7.21	5.06	-29.8%
Cwm Taf	13.0	9.60	-25.9%
BCU	6.47	5.31	-17.9%
Hywel Dda	11.7	9.68	-17.2%
ABMU	10.5	8.84	-16.0%
Aneurin Bevan	7.17	6.47	-9.76%
Powys	6.17	6.49	5.19%
Wales	8.65	7.08	-18.2%

Figure 9. Trend in co-amoxiclav prescribing items per 1,000 patients



6.2.3 Cephalosporin items per 1,000 patients

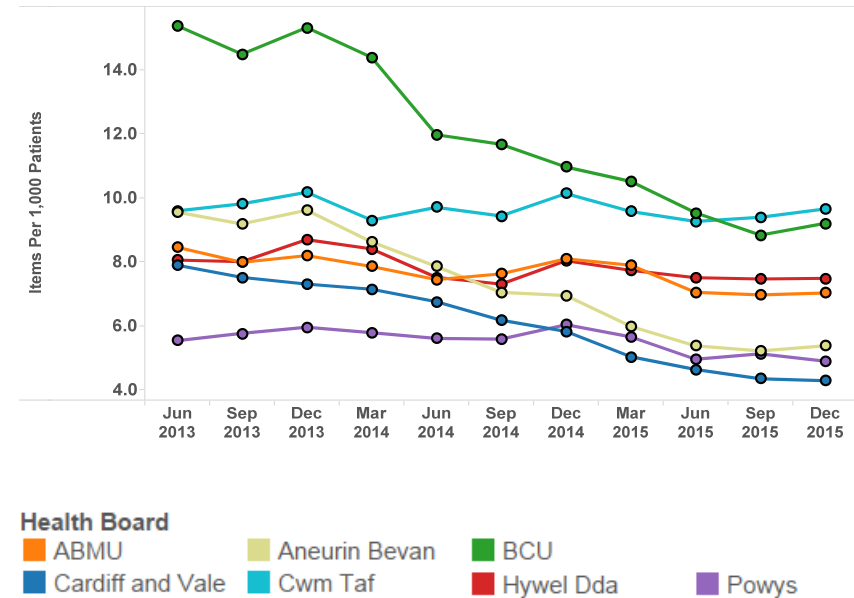
For the quarter to December 2015 prescribing of cephalosporin items per 1,000 patients decreased across Wales by 15% compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year, in line with the aim of this indicator.

- For the quarter ending December 2015, cephalosporin prescribing ranged from 4.28 to 9.65 items per 1,000 patients across the health boards.
- The health board with the lowest prescribing was Cardiff and Vale UHB, whilst the highest prescribing was seen in Cwm Taf UHB.
- Cephalosporin prescribing decreased compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year in all seven health boards.
- The largest decreases were seen in Cardiff and Vale and Aneurin Bevan (27% and 23% respectively). The smallest decreases were seen in Hywel Dda and Cwm Taf UHBs (7% and 5% respectively).

Table 9. Cephalosporin items per 1,000 patients

	2014–2015 Qtr3	2015–2016 Qtr3	% change
Cardiff and Vale	5.82	4.28	-26.5%
Aneurin Bevan	6.94	5.37	-22.6%
Powys	6.03	4.89	-18.9%
BCU	11.0	9.20	-16.1%
ABMU	8.09	7.02	-13.2%
Hywel Dda	8.03	7.48	-6.85%
Cwm Taf	10.1	9.65	-4.74%
Wales	8.24	6.97	-15.4%

Figure 10. Trend in cephalosporin prescribing items per 1,000 patients



6.2.4 Fluoroquinolone items per 1,000 patients

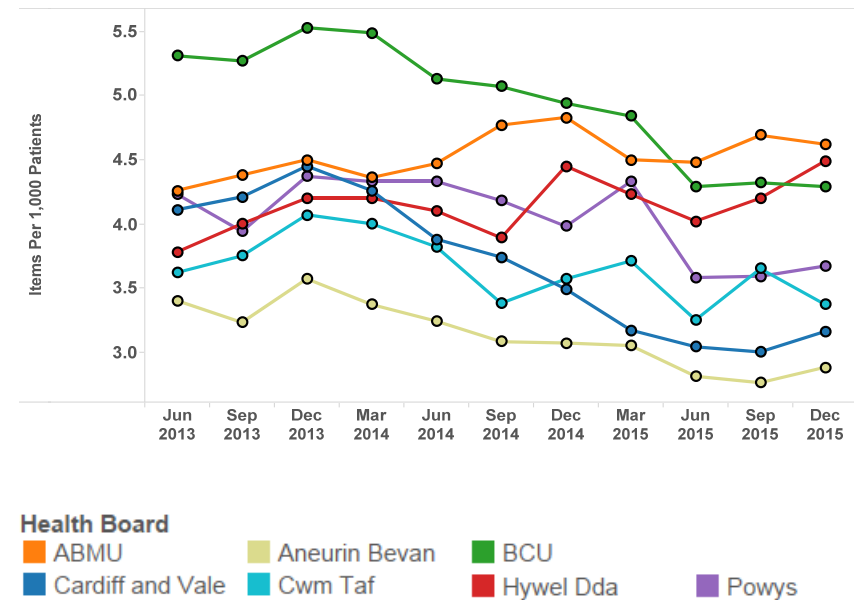
For the quarter to December 2015, the prescribing of fluoroquinolone items decreased across Wales by 7% compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year, in line with the aim of this indicator.

- For the quarter ending December 2015, fluoroquinolone prescribing ranged from 2.88 to 4.62 items per 1,000 patients across the health boards.
- The health board with the lowest prescribing was Aneurin Bevan UHB, whilst the highest prescribing was seen in Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB.
- Fluoroquinolone prescribing decreased compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year in six of the seven health boards.
- The largest decrease was seen in Betsi Cadwaladr UHB (13%). There was a small increase of approximately 1% in Hywel Dda UHB.

Table 10. Fluoroquinolone items per 1,000 patients

	2014–2015 Qtr3	2015–2016 Qtr3	% change
BCU	4.94	4.29	-13.2%
Cardiff and Vale	3.49	3.16	-9.46%
Powys	3.98	3.67	-7.79%
Aneurin Bevan	3.07	2.88	-6.19%
Cwm Taf	3.57	3.37	-5.60%
ABMU	4.83	4.62	-4.35%
Hywel Dda	4.45	4.49	0.90%
Wales	4.11	3.81	-7.30%

Figure 11. Trend in fluoroquinolone prescribing items per 1,000 patients



7.0 NON-STEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUGS

There are two non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) NPIs for 2015–2016:

1. NSAID ADQs per 1,000 STAR-PU (13)
2. Ibuprofen and naproxen items as a percentage of NSAID prescribing

The aim of the indicators is to ensure that the risks associated with NSAIDs are minimised by appropriate choice and use.

7.1 NSAID ADQs per 1,000 STAR-PU (13)

This indicator aims to encourage a reduction in total NSAID prescribing, which has been consistently higher than that seen in England.

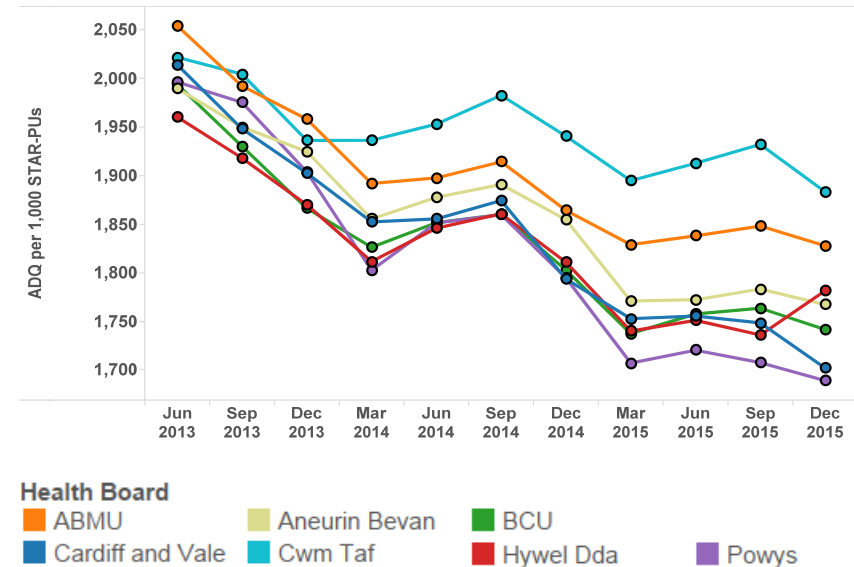
Since the introduction of this indicator, total NSAID prescribing has fallen across Wales, in line with the aim of the indicator.

- For the quarter ending December 2015, total NSAID prescribing ranged from 1,689 to 1,883 ADQs per 1,000 STAR-PU (13) across the health boards.
- The health board with the lowest prescribing was Powys Teaching HB, whilst the highest prescribing was seen in Cwm Taf UHB.
- Total NSAID prescribing decreased compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year in all of the health boards.
- The largest decrease was seen in Powys Teaching HB, and the smallest decrease was seen in Hywel Dda UHB.

Table 11. NSAID ADQs per 1,000 STAR-PU (13)

	2014–2015 Qtr3	2015–2016 Qtr3	% change
Powys	1,795	1,689	-5.90%
Cardiff and Vale	1,793	1,702	-5.11%
Aneurin Bevan	1,854	1,767	-4.70%
BCU	1,803	1,741	-3.39%
Cwm Taf	1,940	1,883	-2.95%
ABMU	1,864	1,828	-1.96%
Hywel Dda	1,811	1,781	-1.63%
Wales	1,835	1,771	-3.48%

Figure 12. Trend in NSAID prescribing ADQs per 1,000 STAR-PU (13)



7.2 Ibuprofen and naproxen items as a percentage of NSAID prescribing

This indicator aims to promote the prescribing of ibuprofen and naproxen at appropriate doses over other NSAIDs, as they are associated with a lower risk of cardiovascular adverse events.

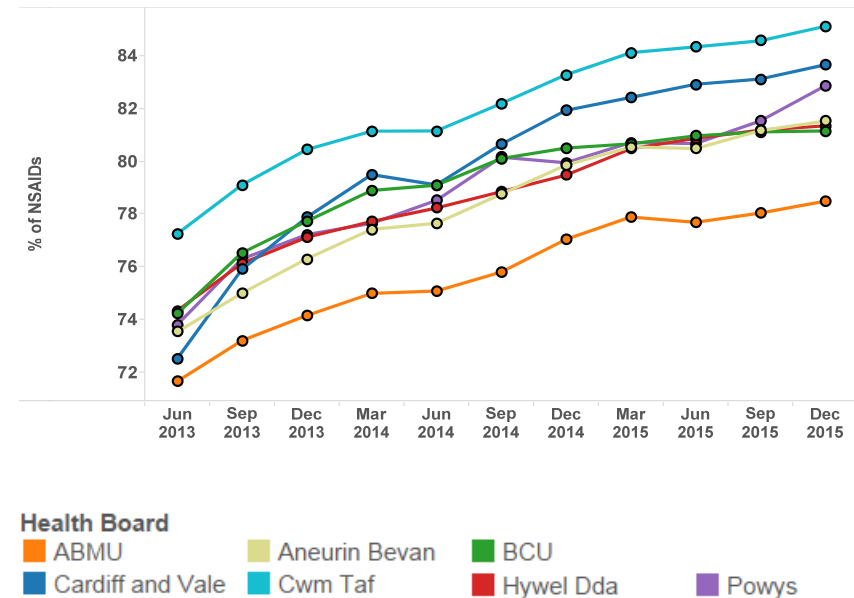
Since the introduction of this indicator, the proportion of ibuprofen and naproxen prescribing as a percentage of total NSAID usage has increased, in line with the aim of this indicator.

- For the quarter ending December 2015, the proportion of ibuprofen and naproxen prescribing ranged from 78.5% to 85.1% across the health boards.
- The health board with the highest prescribing was Cwm Taf UHB, whilst the lowest prescribing was seen in Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB.
- The proportion of ibuprofen and naproxen prescribing increased compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year in all of the health boards.
- The largest increase was seen in Powys Teaching HB, and the smallest increase was seen in Betsi Cadwaladr UHB.

Table 12. Ibuprofen and naproxen items as a percentage of NSAID prescribing

	2014–2015 Qtr3	2015–2016 Qtr3	% change
Powys	79.9	82.9	3.65%
Hywel Dda	79.5	81.3	2.35%
Cwm Taf	83.3	85.1	2.21%
Cardiff and Vale	81.9	83.7	2.11%
Aneurin Bevan	79.9	81.5	2.09%
ABMU	77.0	78.5	1.88%
BCU	80.5	81.2	0.81%
Wales	80.1	81.6	1.89%

Figure 13. Trend in ibuprofen and naproxen prescribing as a percentage of NSAID prescribing



8.0 YELLOW CARDS

Adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are a significant clinical problem, increasing morbidity and mortality. Approximately 6.5% of hospital admissions in adults and 2.1% in children are attributed to ADRs.

The Yellow Card Scheme is vital in helping the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) monitor the safety of medicines and vaccines that are on the market.

The aim of this NPI is to increase the number of Yellow Cards submitted by GPs in Wales.

There are two measures for this indicator:

1. Number of Yellow Cards submitted by GPs per practice population.
2. Number of Yellow Cards submitted per health board.

The number of Yellow Cards submitted by GPs in Wales increased by 19% (28 Yellow Card reports) compared to the equivalent quarter of the previous year (Table 13). The number of Yellow Cards submitted by all reporters in each health board is shown in Table 14.

Table 13. Number of Yellow Cards submitted by GPs

	2014–2015 Qtr3	2015–2016 Qtr3	Change
Cardiff and Vale	6	35	29
Hywel Dda	3	26	23
Powys	7	10	3
Cwm Taf	14	9	-5
Aneurin Bevan	14	7	-7
BCU	50	43	-7
ABMU	56	48	-8
Wales	150	178	28

Figure 14. Number of GP reports per 100,000 health board population

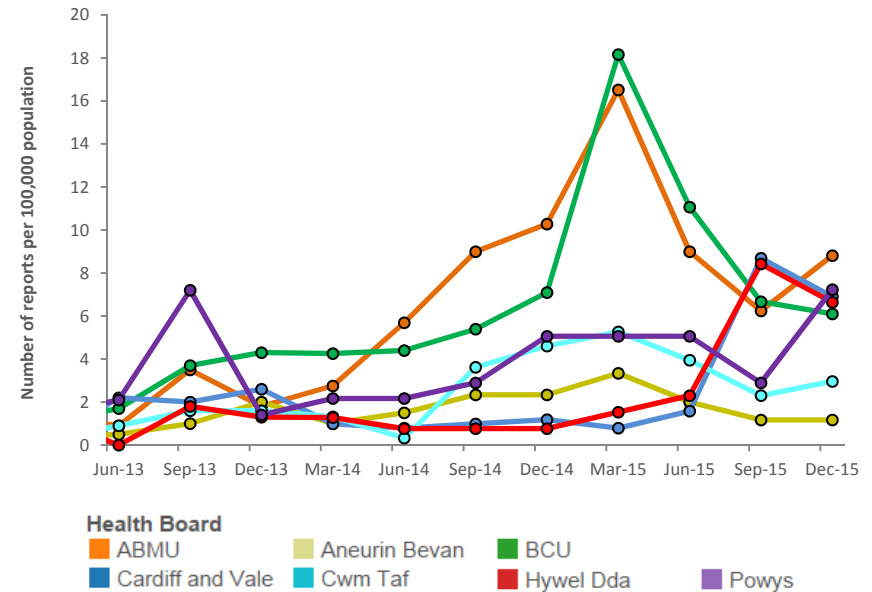


Table 14. Number of Yellow Cards submitted by health boards

	2014–2015 Qtr3	2015–2016 Qtr3	Change
Hywel Dda	18	79	61
Cardiff and Vale	45	70	25
Powys	19	35	16
BCU	123	128	5
Aneurin Bevan	37	40	3
Cwm Taf	26	24	-2
ABMU	88	81	-7
Wales	356	457	101

GLOSSARY

ADQ – The average daily quantity (ADQ) is a measure of prescribing volume based upon prescribing behaviour in England. It represents the assumed average maintenance dose per day for a medicine used for its main indication in adults. The ADQ is not a recommended dose but an analytical unit to compare prescribing activity.

DDD – The defined daily dose (DDD), developed by the World Health Organisation, is a unit of measurement whereby each medicine is assigned a value within its recognised dosage range. The value is the assumed average maintenance dose per day for a medicine when used for its main indication in adults. A medicine can have different DDVs depending on the route of administration.

PU – Prescribing units (PUs) were adopted to take account of the greater need of elderly patients for medication in reporting prescribing performance at both the practice and primary care organisational level.

PRESCRIBING – Although the term ‘prescribing’ is used in this report, the data presented represent prescriptions that have been dispensed and forwarded for pricing. It is assumed that the difference between the number of prescriptions issued and those dispensed is not significant, and that dispensing provides an accurate representation of prescribing.

STAR-PU – Specific therapeutic group age-sex related prescribing units (STAR-PUs) are designed to measure prescribing weighted for age and sex of patients. There are differences in the age and sex of patients for whom medicines in specific therapeutic groups are usually prescribed. To make such comparisons, STAR-PUs have been developed based on costs of prescribing of items within therapeutic groups.

APPENDIX 1. AWMSG NPIS 2015–2016

Indicator	Unit of measure	Target for 2015–2016
Proton pump inhibitors	PPI DDDs per 1,000 PUs	Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile, or show a reduction towards the quartile below
Lipid-modifying drugs	LAC statin items as a percentage of all statin, ezetimibe and simvastatin/ezetimibe combination prescribing	Maintain performance levels within the upper quartile, or show an increase towards the quartile above (threshold to remain as for 2013–2014 NPI)
Inhaled corticosteroids	Low strength ICS items as a percentage of all ICS prescribing	Maintain performance levels within the upper quartile, or show an increase towards the quartile above
Hypnotics and anxiolytics	Hypnotic and anxiolytic ADQs per 1,000 STAR-PUs	Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile, or show a reduction towards the quartile below
Opioid analgesics	Morphine items as a percentage of strong opioid prescribing	Maintain performance levels within the upper quartile, or show an increase towards the quartile above
	Tramadol DDDs per 1,000 patients	Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile, or show a reduction towards the quartile below
Antibiotics	Total antibacterial items per 1,000 STAR-PUs	No performance target set; aim for reduction in prescribing year on year, measuring quarter to December only
	Co-amoxiclav items per 1,000 patients Co-amoxiclav items as a percentage of total antibacterial items	Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile, or show a reduction towards the quartile below
	Cephalosporin items per 1,000 patients Cephalosporin items as a percentage of total antibacterial items	Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile, or show a reduction towards the quartile below
	Fluoroquinolone items per 1,000 patients Fluoroquinolone items as a percentage of total antibacterial items	Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile, or show a reduction towards the quartile below
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)	NSAID ADQs per 1,000 STAR-PUs	Maintain performance levels within the lower quartile, or show a reduction towards the quartile below
	Ibuprofen and naproxen items as a percentage of NSAID prescribing	Maintain performance levels within the upper quartile, or show an increase towards the quartile above
Yellow Cards	Number of Yellow Cards submitted per practice and per health board	Target for GP practice – GPs to submit one Yellow Card per 2,000 practice population. Target for each health board – submit Yellow Cards in excess of one per 2,000 health board population
ADQ = average daily quantity; DDD = defined daily dose; LAC = low acquisition cost; PU = prescribing unit; STAR-PU = specific therapeutic group age–sex related prescribing unit		

APPENDIX 2. PRESCRIBING BY GP CLUSTER

Figure 1. PPI prescribing – Quarter ending December 2014 versus quarter ending December 2015

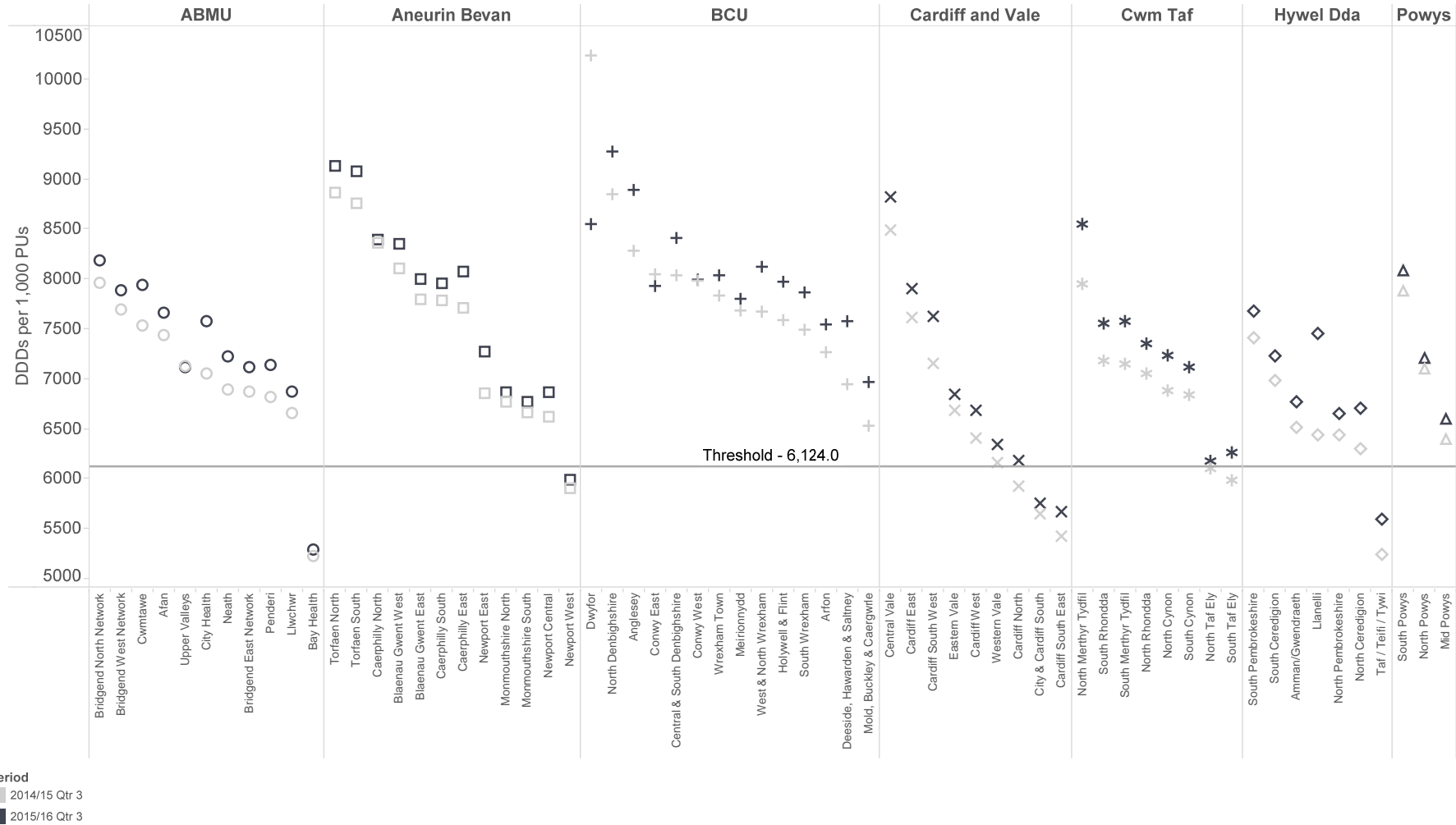


Figure 2. LAC statin prescribing as a percentage of all statin, ezetimibe and simvastatin/ezetimibe combination prescribing – Quarter ending December 2014 versus quarter ending December 2015

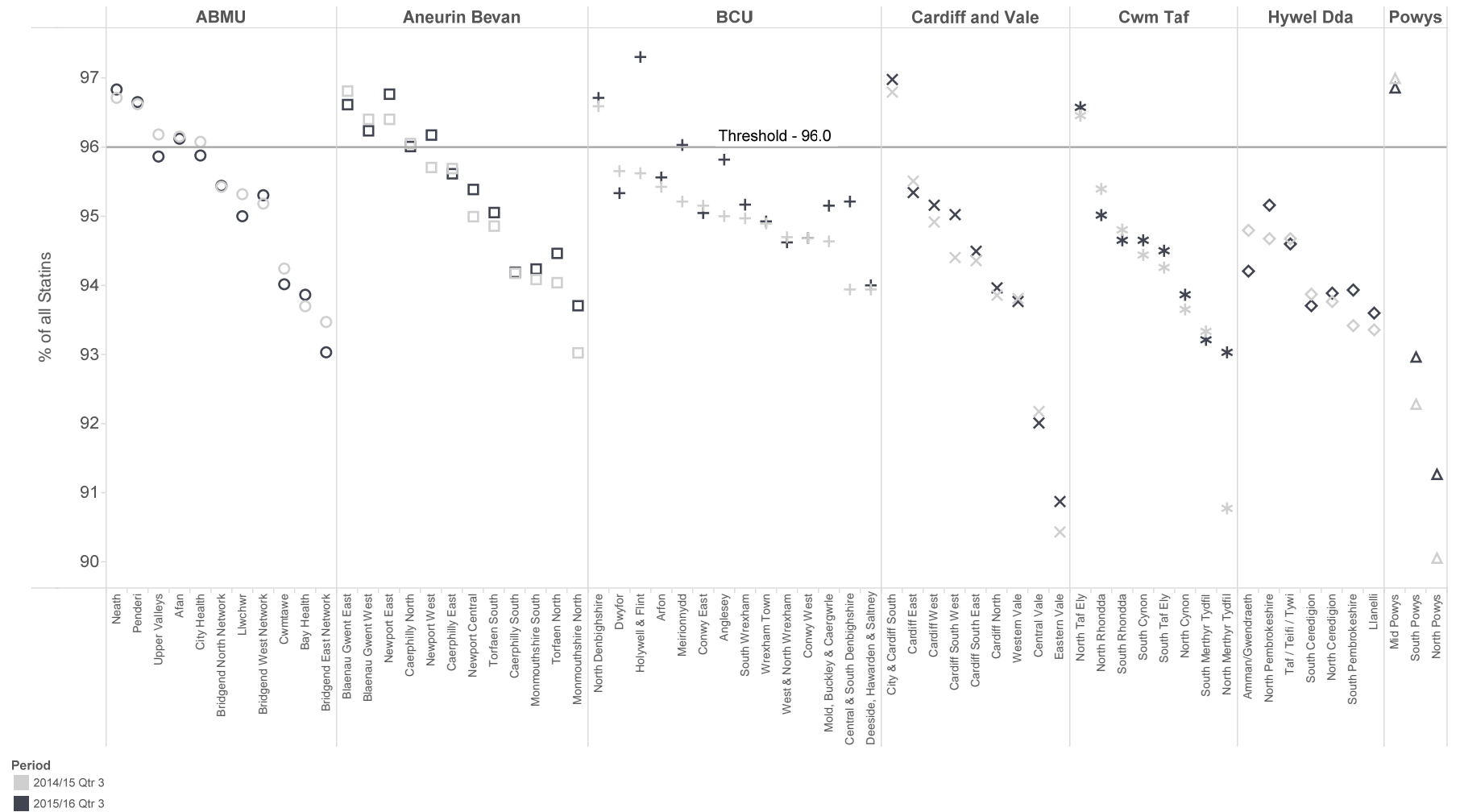


Figure 3. Low strength ICS prescribing as a percentage of all ICS prescribing – Quarter ending December 2014 versus quarter ending December 2015

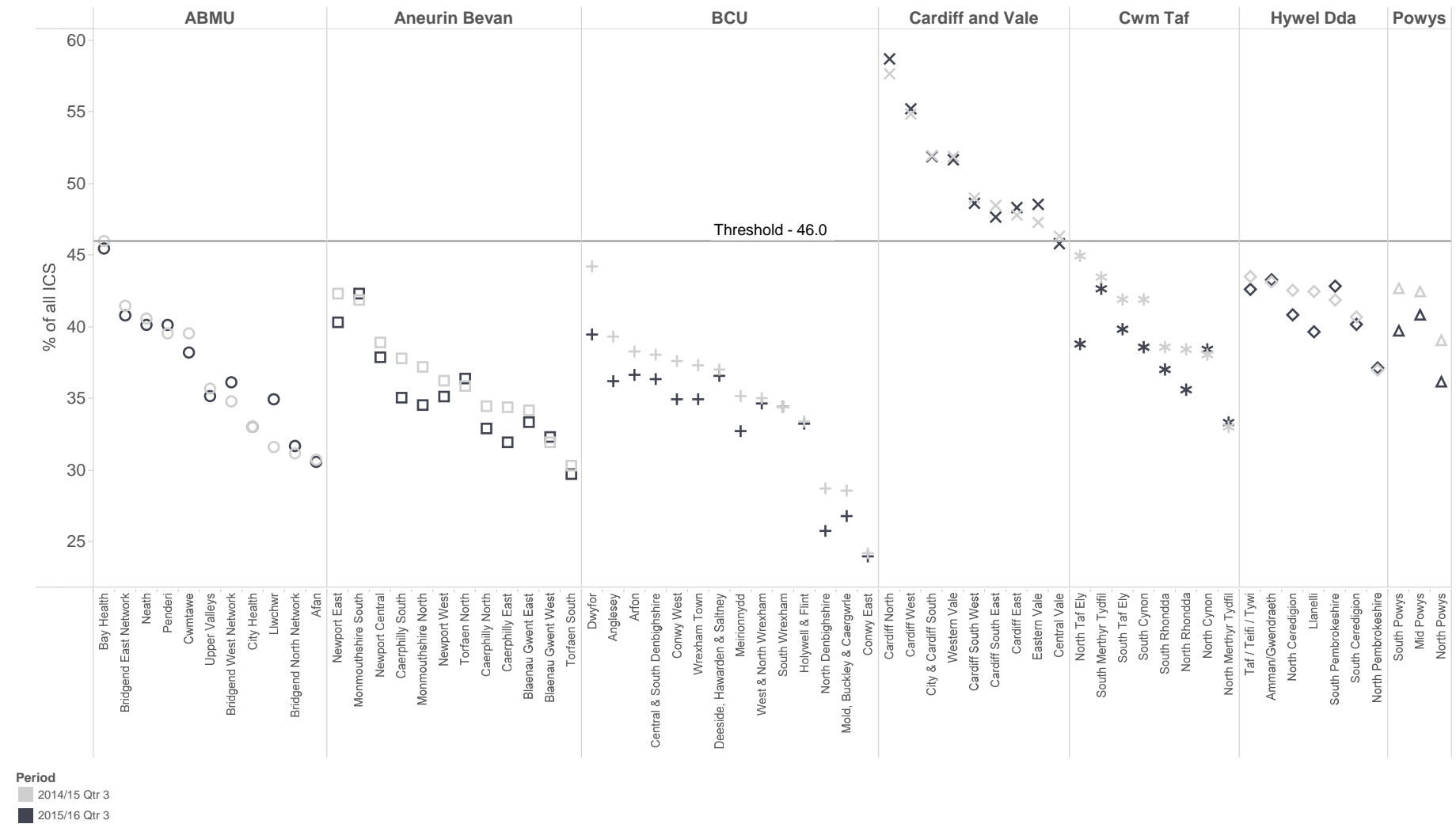


Figure 4. Hypnotic and anxiolytic prescribing – Quarter ending December 2014 versus quarter ending December 2015

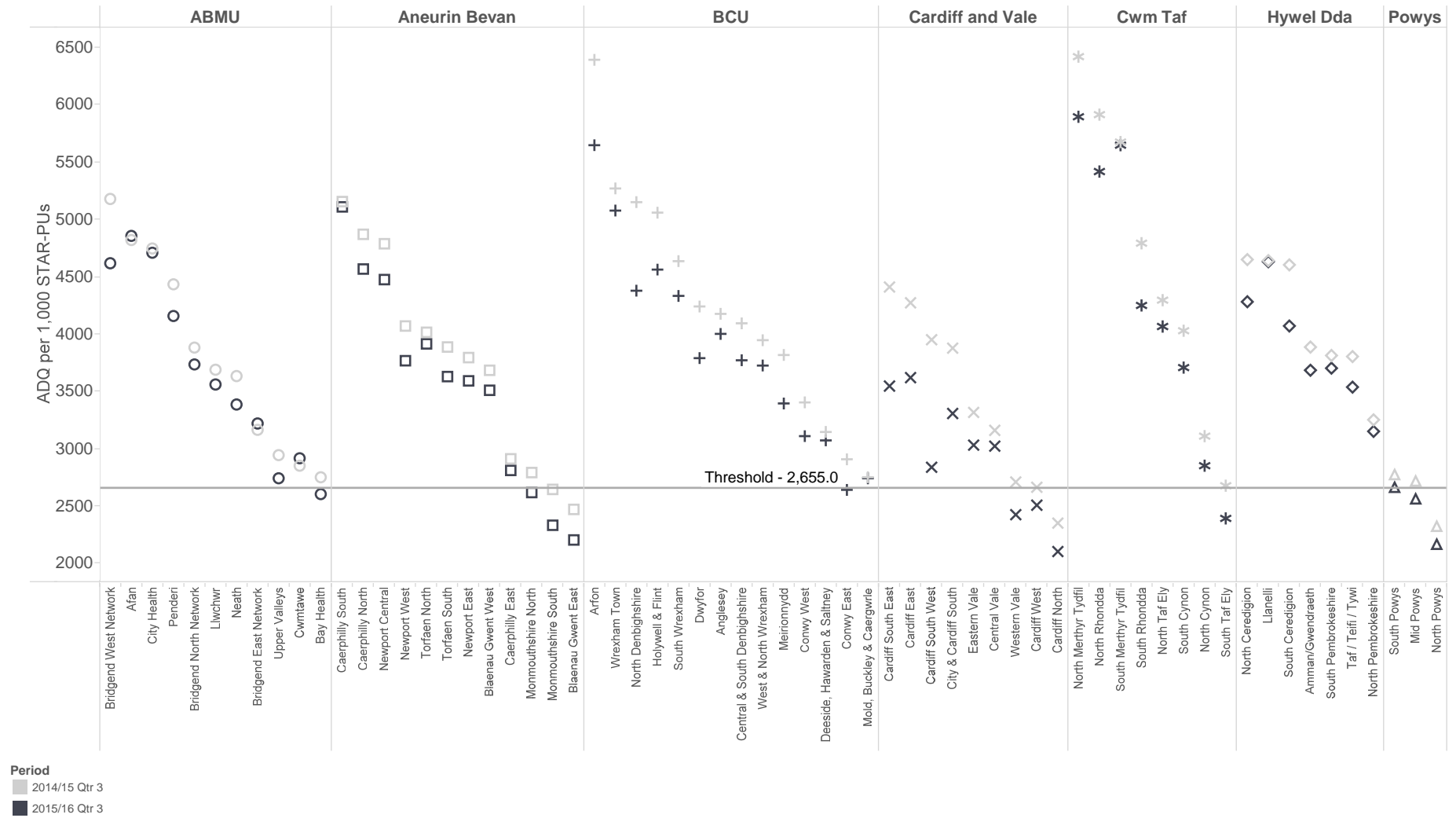


Figure 5. Morphine as a percentage of strong opioid prescribing – Quarter ending December 2014 versus quarter ending December 2015

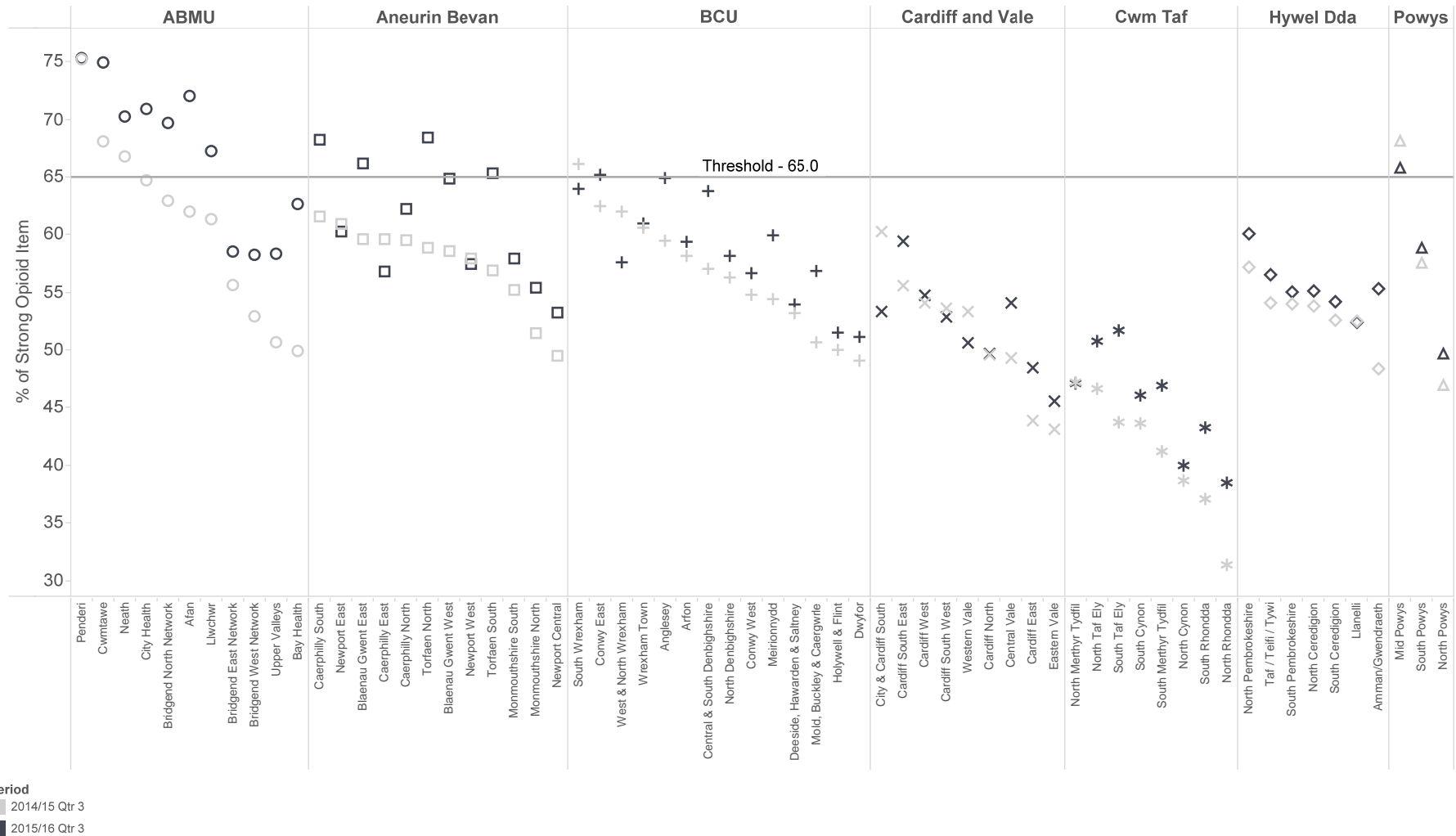


Figure 6. Tramadol prescribing – Quarter ending December 2014 versus quarter ending December 2015

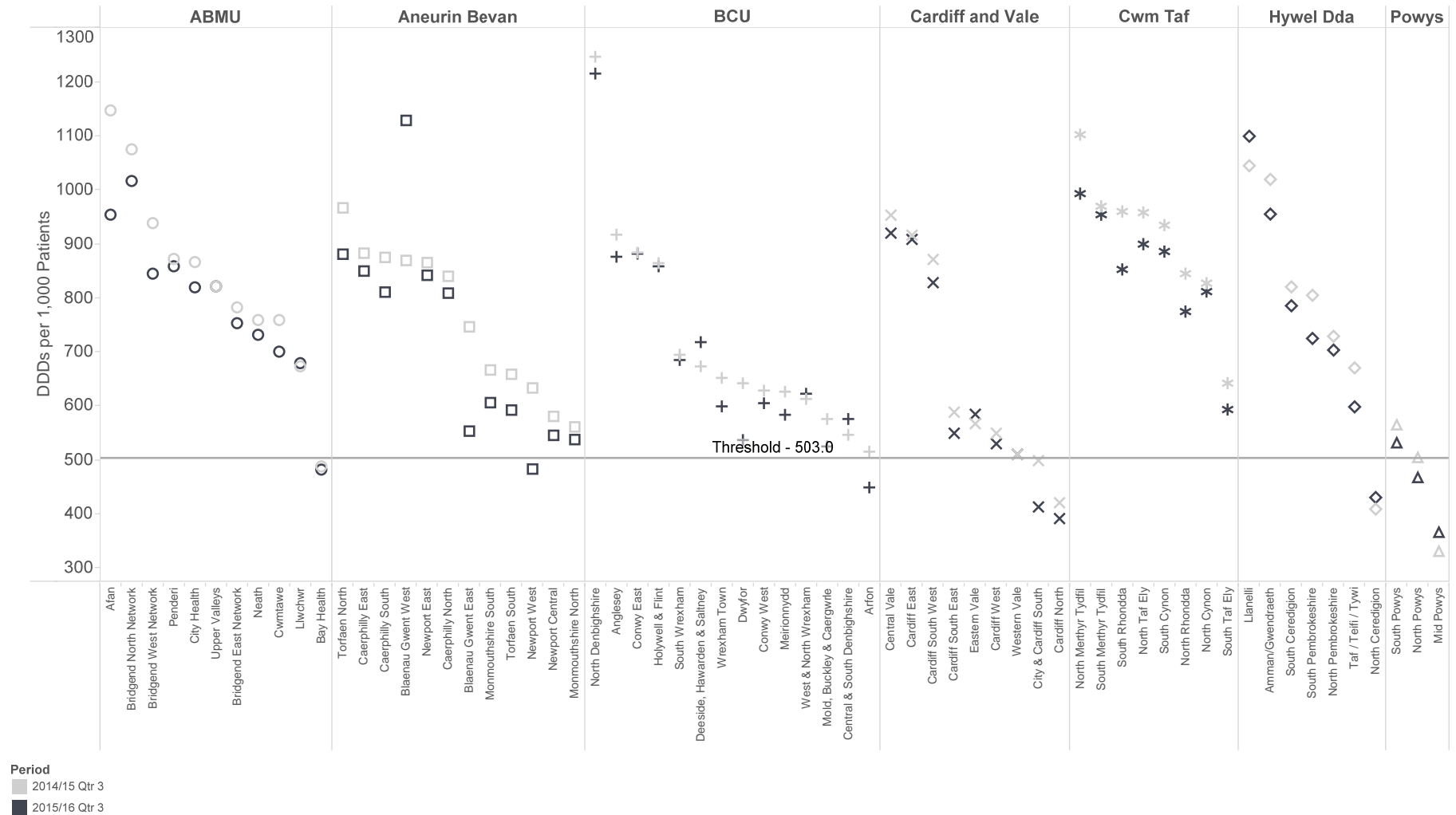


Figure 7. Antibiotic prescribing – Quarter ending December 2014 versus quarter ending December 2015

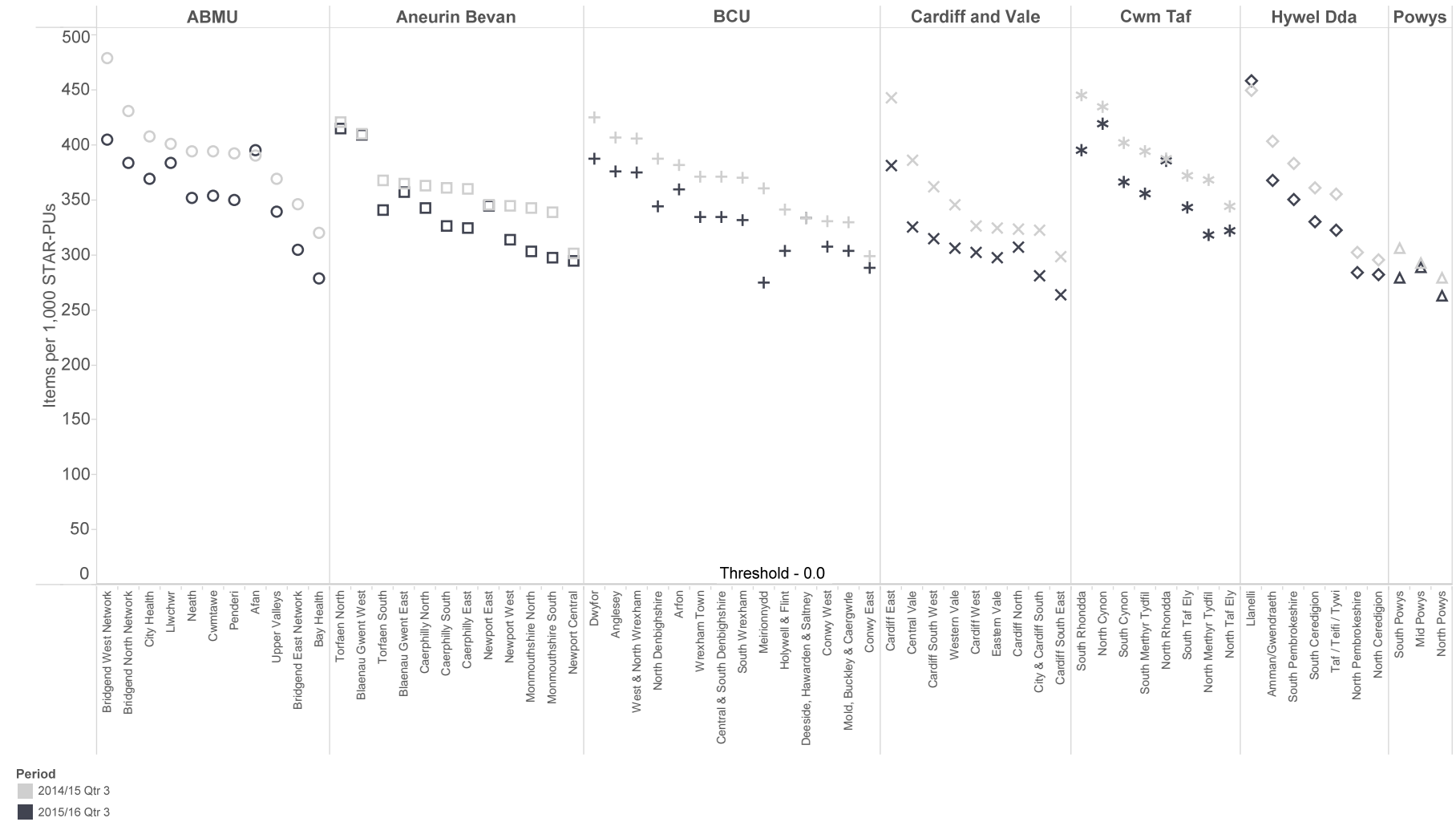


Figure 8. Co-amoxiclav prescribing – Quarter ending December 2014 versus quarter ending December 2015

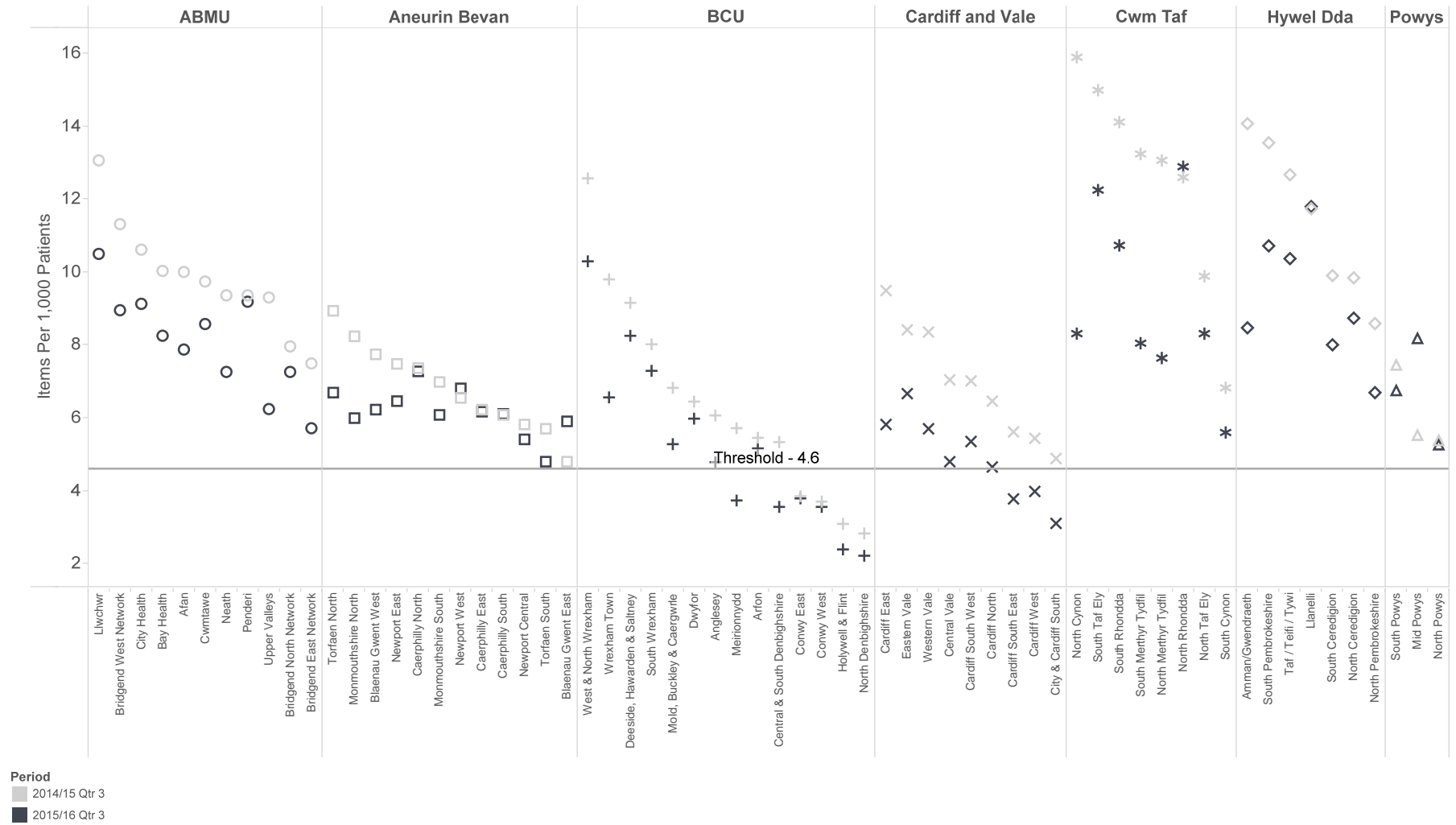


Figure 9. Co-amoxiclav as a percentage of total antibacterial items – Quarter ending December 2014 versus quarter ending December 2015

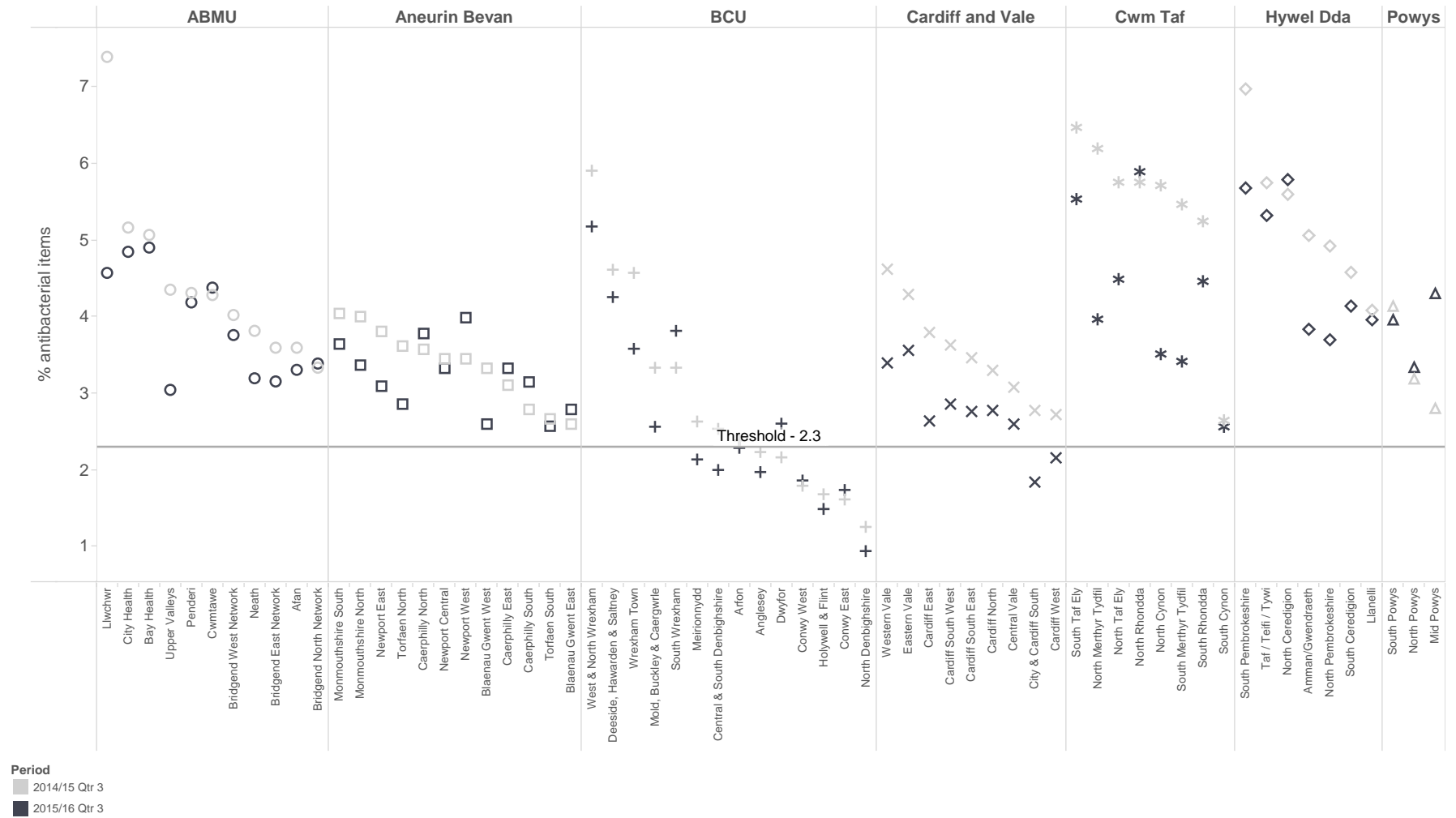


Figure 10. Cephalosporin prescribing – Quarter ending December 2014 versus quarter ending December 2015

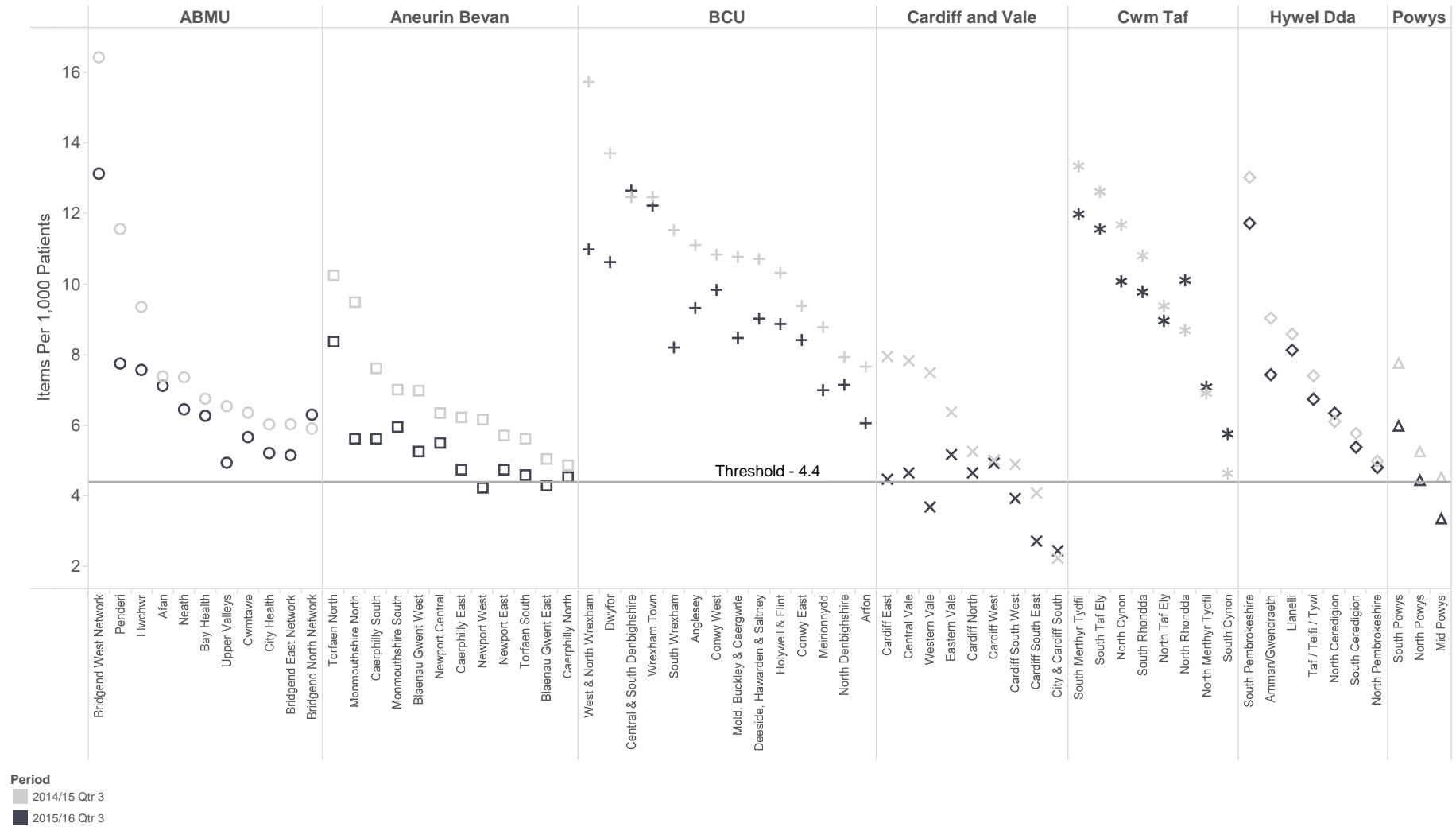


Figure 11. Cephalosporins as a percentage of total antibacterial items – Quarter ending December 2014 versus quarter ending December 2015

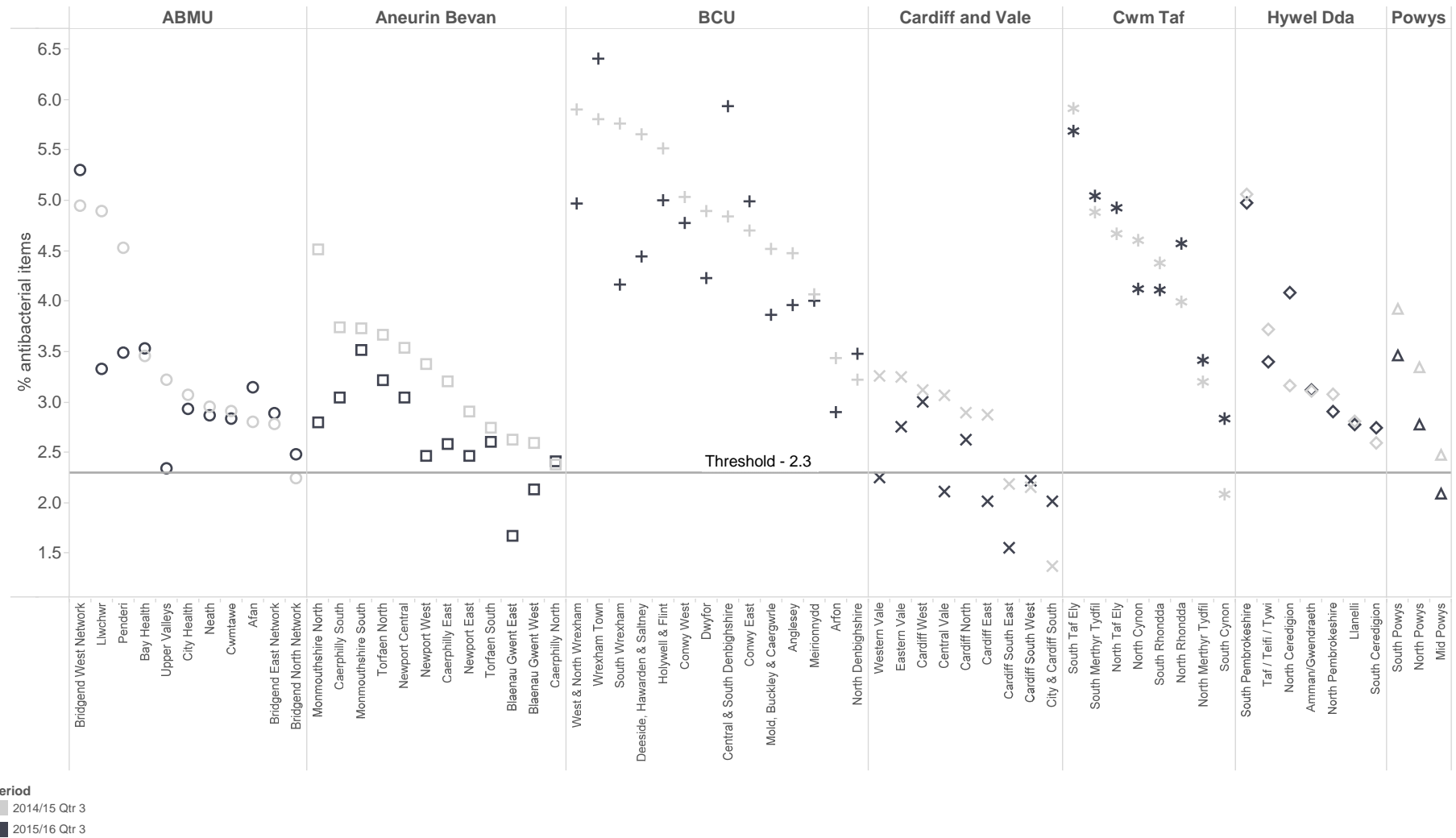


Figure 12. Fluoroquinolone prescribing – Quarter ending December 2014 versus quarter ending December 2015

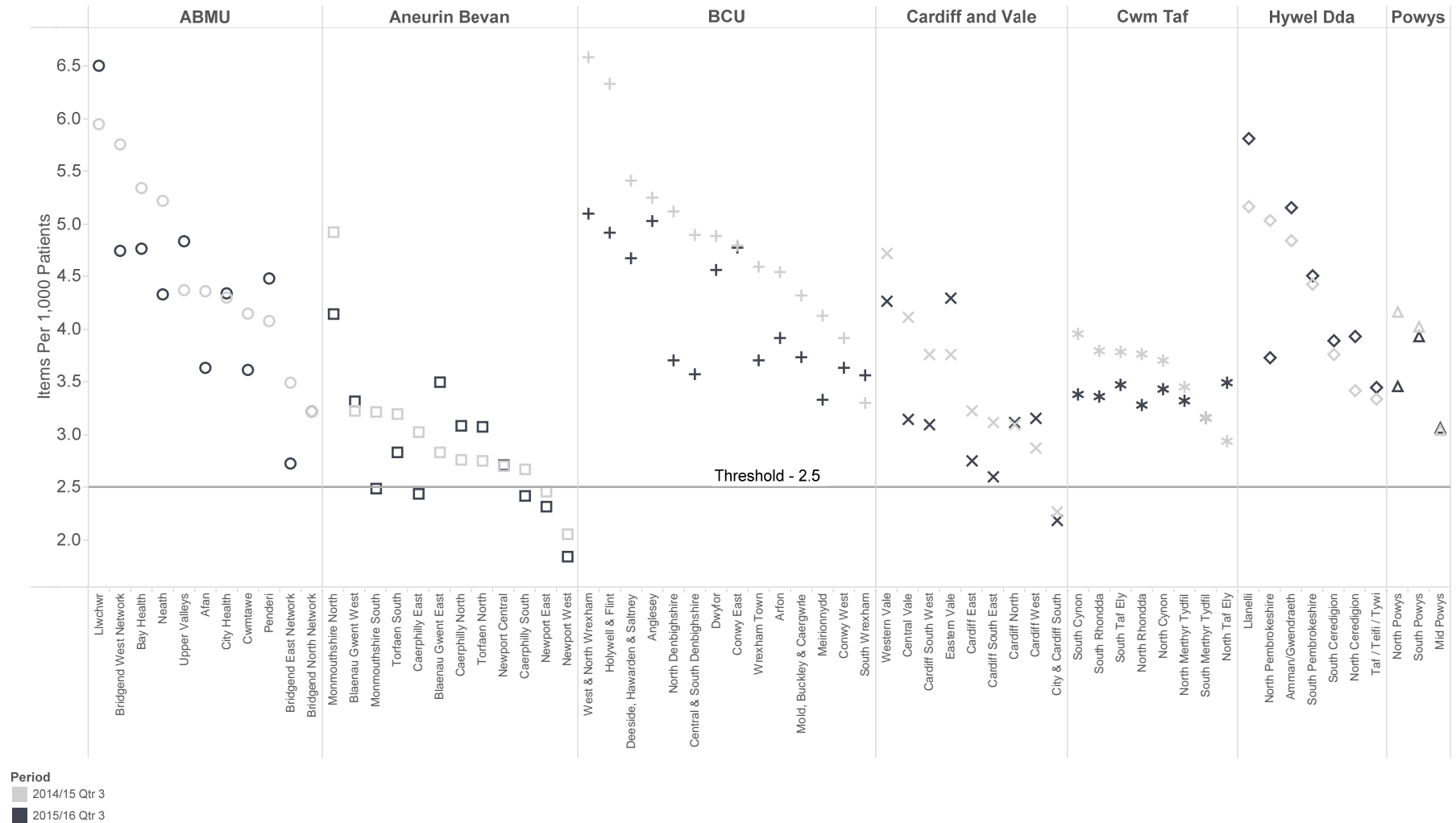


Figure 13. Fluoroquinolones as a percentage of total antibacterial items – Quarter ending December 2014 versus quarter ending December 2015

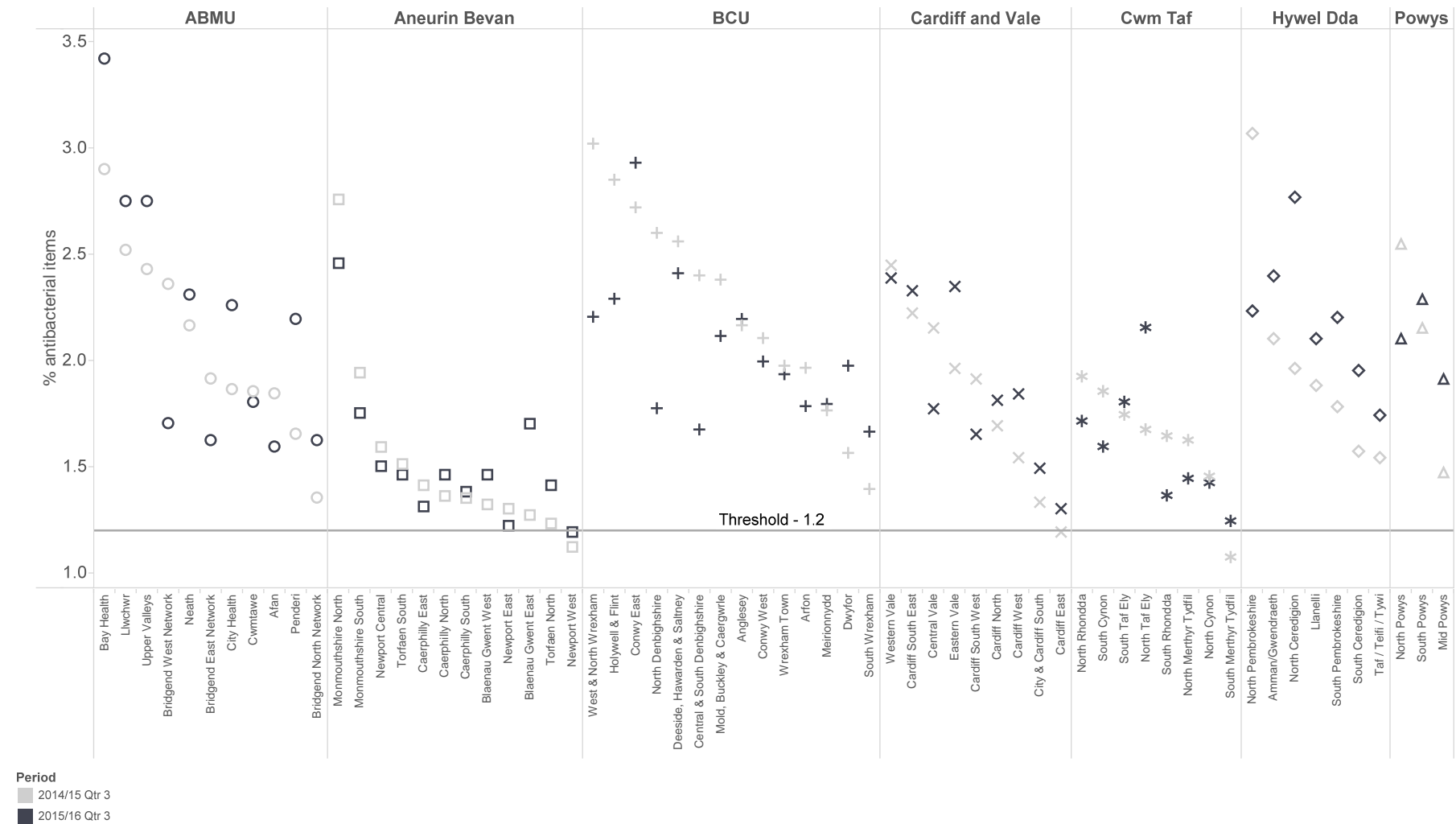


Figure 14. NSAID prescribing – Quarter ending December 2014 versus quarter ending December 2015

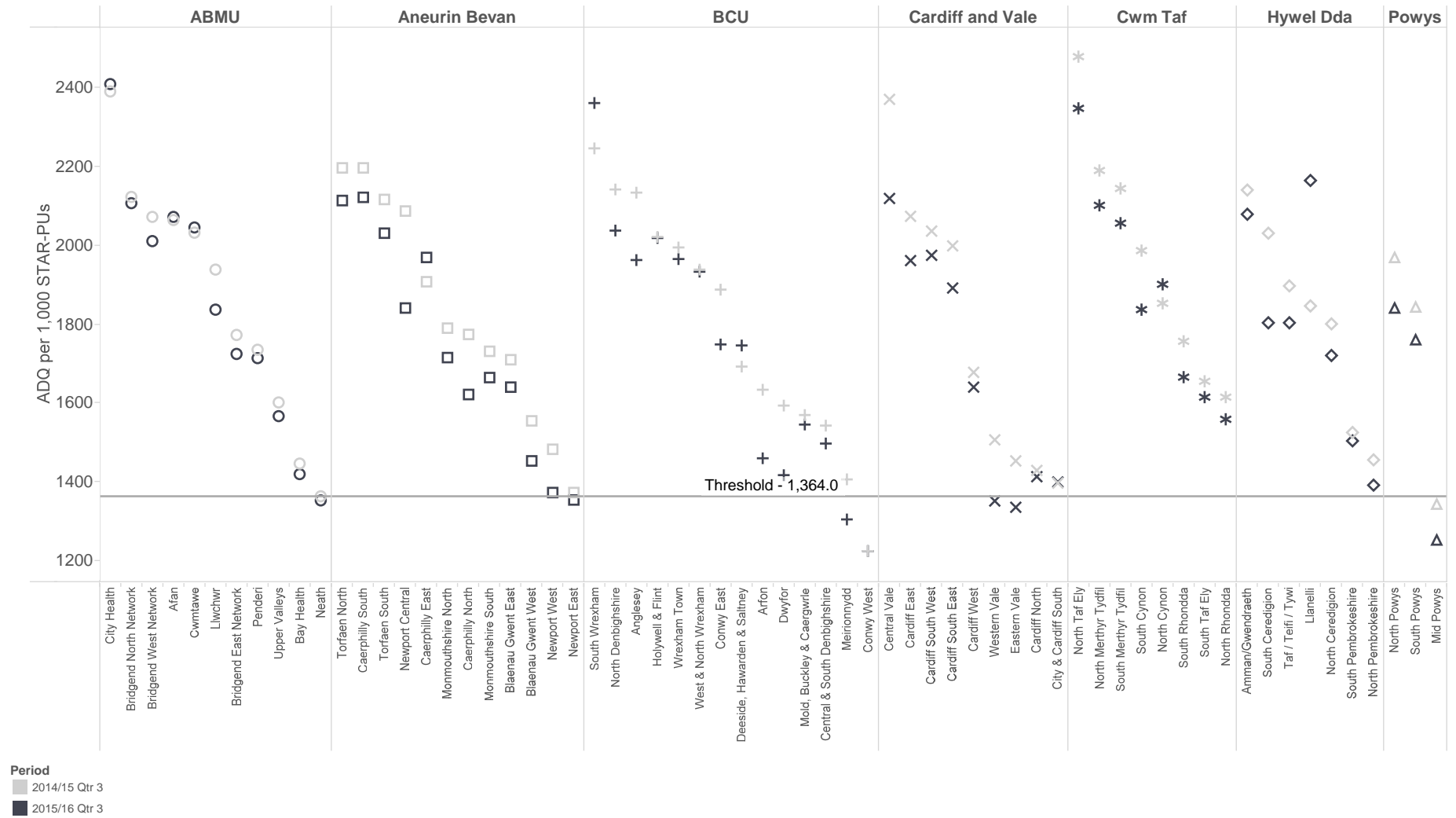


Figure 15. Ibuprofen and naproxen as a percentage of NSAID items – Quarter ending December 2014 versus quarter ending December 2015

