

Reference: FOI.ICB-2526/077

Subject: Cost and Volume of Medicines Wastage

I can confirm that the ICB does hold some of the information requested; please see responses below:

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>1. The estimated financial cost of medicines wasted in primary care under your ICB's remit, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Returned or uncollected prescriptions from patients ○ Stock expired or disposed of by GP practices or pharmacies – Not recorded for Pharmacies ○ Medication wastage due to patient non-adherence, over-prescribing, or other causes 	<p>Total Cost of disposing medicines from Community Pharmacy in BNSSG for 2024-2025 was £468,647.82</p> <p>This total includes all disposed medicines; the exact breakdown is unknown.</p> <p>The cost of stock expired from GP practices is unknown. The cost of medication wastage due to non-adherence is not known.</p>
<p>2. Any available quantitative data (e.g., volume/weight or item count) on wasted medicines.</p>	<p>Total Weight of disposed Medicines collected from Community Pharmacy in BNSSG for 2024-2025 was 42.69 tonne.</p>
<p>3. Any audits, internal reports, or evaluations your ICB has conducted on medicines wastage or medicines optimisation.</p>	<p>The exact scale of medicines wastage is difficult to estimate.</p> <p>The ICB ran an audit in six community pharmacies in July 2024. The audit revealed a total of 1,406 uncollected items, which were dispensed for 1,042 patients. The cost of these uncollected medicines was £12,967.34. However, it should be noted that these medicines were returned to stock rather than wasted, so there was no financial loss to the NHS in terms of prescribing cost (however pharmacist/ support staff time wasted).</p>

4. Whether your ICB supports or commissions any **initiatives, technologies, or systems** to reduce or monitor medicines waste.

The ICB is running a public facing waste communication aimed to highlight – ‘only order what you need’.

The information provided in this response is accurate as of 3 July 2025 and has been approved for release by Geeta Iyer, Deputy Chief Medical Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.