

**Title BMJ editorial: Proton pump inhibitors overprescribed**

Date Published 04/01/2008

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Source British Medical Journal

Resource Links <<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/extract/336/7634/2>> Extract

Abstract An editorial published in the British Medical Journal suggests that at the very least, £100million from the NHS budget, and almost £2billion worldwide is being spent unnecessarily on proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) each year.

The authors state that PPIs account for over 90% of the NHS drug budget for treating dyspepsia despite the fact that PPIs cost more than other agents for dyspepsia. Additionally, they state that if NICE guidelines on PPIs (published in 2000) were followed, then expenditure on PPIs would be far less than the 90% at present.

The authors conclude that the problem of overprescribing stands both in primary and secondary care, and prescribers should be made aware of their adverse effect profile: an increase in the prevalence of pneumonia and Campylobacter enteritis as well as a doubling of the risk of infection with Clostridium difficile. They suggest that between 25% and 70% of patients taking these drugs have no appropriate indication.