



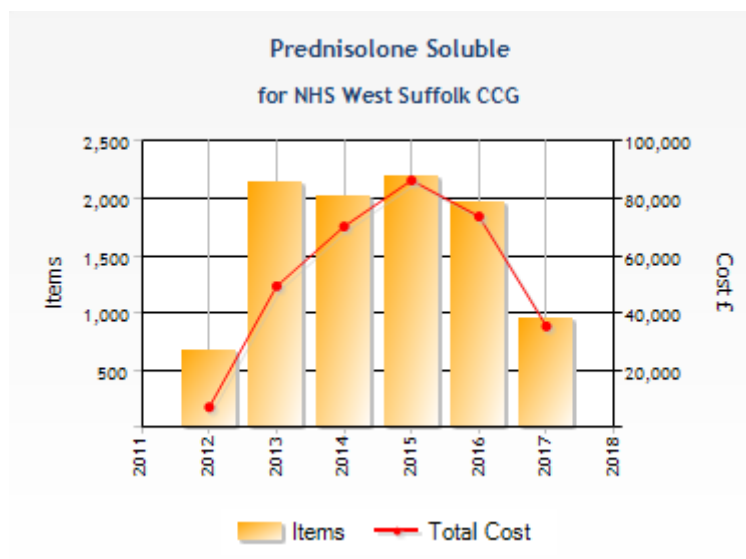
Prednisolone soluble tablets – Quick Summary

PLEASE PRESCRIBE PLAIN PREDNISOLONE TABLETS INSTEAD OF SOLUBLE TABLETS WHENEVER POSSIBLE. THE PLAIN TABLETS CAN BE DISSOLVED IN A SMALL AMOUNT OF WATER.

- Prednisolone soluble tablets currently cost over **40 times** as much as plain prednisolone tablets:

Drug	Cost per 10 x 5mg doses (£) ¹
Prednisolone 5mg tablets	0.27
Prednisolone Dompe 5mg/5ml oral solution	11.41
Prednisolone 5mg soluble tablets	11.71

- ePACT data from August 2017 shows that West Suffolk CCG has spent almost £40,000 on prednisolone soluble tablets in the first five months of this financial year. WSCCG’s annual spend for 2017 – 2018 is expected to be **in excess of £80,000**



- It has been established that plain prednisolone tablets dissolve satisfactorily in a small amount of water (unlicensed use). The resultant solution tastes the same, regardless of whether a plain or soluble tablet is used. Administration of prednisolone in this manner is routinely adopted by local hospitals² and promoted widely by other CCGs.
- There are only a limited number of clinical situations (for example, patients with fine-bore enteral feeding tubes) where prescribing of soluble tablets may be justified.

¹ Drug Tariff November 2017

² NHSI – Model Hospital



integrated working



West Suffolk
Clinical Commissioning Group

Prescribing costs by individual practice

Practice Comparison: Prednisolone Soluble [NHS West Suffolk CCG: June 2017 - August 2017]

