Errata

In the section “Distribution of treatment duration” starting on page 64, the formula defining *Average duration* is wrong. The right equation should read:

\[
\text{Average duration} = \frac{\text{Prevalence rate}}{\text{Incidence rate}}
\]

The data set used is valid, but based on the erroneous equation, figure 4 will also be incorrect. The correct figure is as follows:

**Figure 4  Estimated average treatment duration for each drug class by age**

Due to these mistakes, most of the analyses and interpretations in the subsequent paragraphs on pages 65-66 are not tenable any longer. Based on the correct figure, the results can be summarized as follows:

- The average number of years when patients redeemed at least one prescription a year increased by age for antipsychotics and antidepressants, to a maximum in the age group 60-69 years.
- The figures regarding anxiolytics and hypnotics increased steadily by age from young until the oldest age group, but the increase in average treatment duration by age was much less than for the two other drug classes.

An interpretation of the corrected data presentation could be:

- The differences in average treatment duration between the drug classes most probably reflect that anxiolytics and hypnotics are used for conditions of shorter duration, less chronicity or less tendency to relapse than the other drug classes.
- Figures for the oldest patients especially regarding antipsychotics and antidepressants are probably underestimated due to lack of information about patients in nursing homes.
- Dependency may explain some of the increased duration by age for anxiolytics and hypnotics.