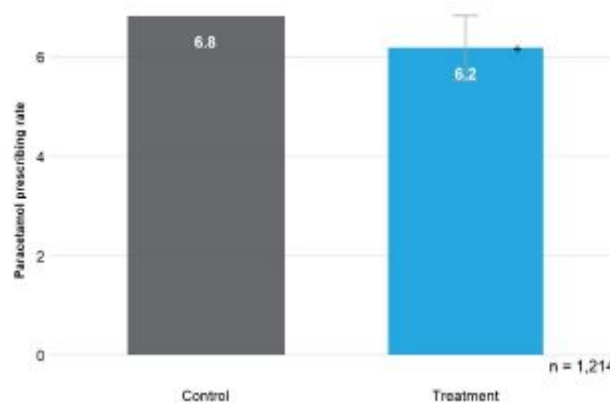


Supplementary Material 1: Paracetamol dispensed, control and intervention groups, September-December 2019.

Effects on other commonly dispensed drugs

A secondary analysis examined the impact of the letter on the paracetamol prescribing rate, defined analogously to the antibiotic prescribing rate but with the number of people prescribed paracetamol on the numerator. Paracetamol prescribing was expected to remain unchanged, as the intervention did not target paracetamol prescribing behaviours. After the interventions, it was flagged that it might be possible that the paracetamol prescribing could increase if paracetamol is used as a substitute for unnecessary antibiotics, or it could decrease if GPs tended to prescribe paracetamol in tandem with antibiotics. Figure 1 suggests the intervention may have reduced paracetamol prescribing, though the estimate is not statistically significant at conventional levels, but we do observe a downward trend.



NB: Asterisks denote: *** $p < 0.001$; ** $p < 0.01$; * $p < 0.05$; + $p < 0.1$.