

# Publication Summary



## Practice Team Information (PTI)

### Annual Update (2010/11)

29 November 2011



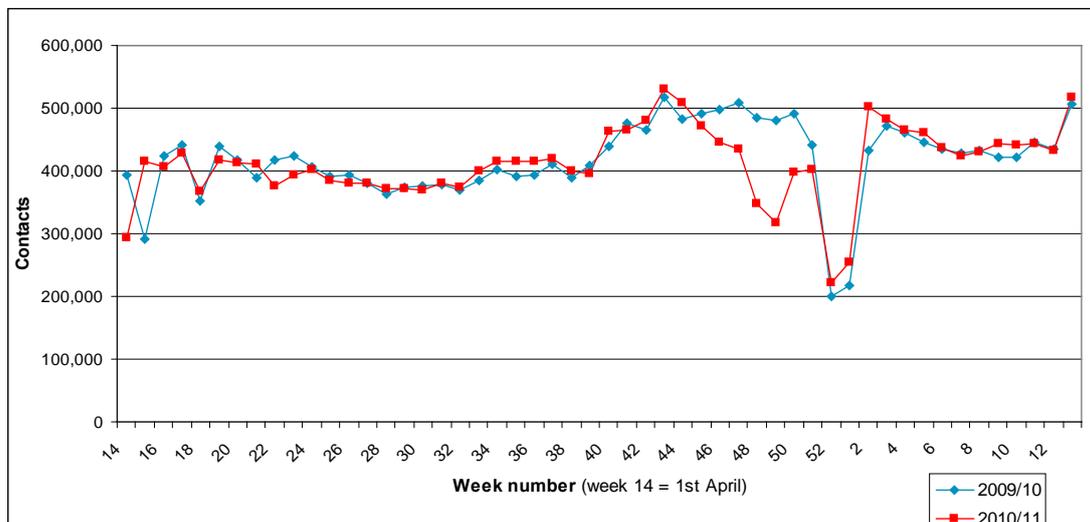
### About this Release

Practice Team Information (PTI) collects information from a sample of around 60 Scottish general practices about face-to-face consultations between patients and a GP or practice-employed nurse. The PTI website shows estimates of the numbers of patients consulting and the numbers of consultations, by age, gender, staff discipline and practice and for 17 conditions. This publication provides new information for the financial year 2010/11, and updates figures published previously for the years 2003/04 to 2009/10.

### Key Points

- GP and practice-employed nurses combined had an estimated 23.1 million face-to-face contacts with patients in 2010/11 (95% confidence interval of 22.2 to 24.1 million); 30% of these contacts were with nurses. The trend in contact numbers since 2003/04 has shown a gradual rise. The figures for 2009/10 were affected upwards by the pandemic flu outbreak while those for 2010/11 were reduced by severe weather (see Fig 1).

**Fig 1. Estimated total number of consultations with a GP or practice-employed nurse in Scotland per week for 2009/10 and 2010/11**



- The estimated average number of GP or practice nurse contacts per patient in 2010/11 was 4.2. Of the patients registered with a practice, three times more males compared to females did not consult at all. The gender difference was particularly apparent in female reproductive ages. Nearly 12% of the patients had 10 or more contacts of which more than 60% was female.
- The most commonly recorded reason for consultation was for "circulatory and respiratory symptoms and signs". For GPs "digestive/abdominal symptoms and signs" was the most common reason and for nurses high blood pressure was the most common reason. This reflects the fact that nurse workload includes a major contribution to managing specific long-term conditions.

## Background

- Estimates are based on between 48 and 60 general practices (covering up to around 6% of the Scottish population), for the financial years 2003/04 to 2010/11.
- For PTI purposes, 'practice nurse' is defined as practice-employed nurses and their clinical assistants (e.g. phlebotomists and health care assistants), and 'GP' includes locums and registrars (for more details see webpage '[What is PTI?](#)').
- All top-level figures are standardised by age, gender and deprivation to account for differences between the PTI sample population and the Scottish practice population in age-gender-deprivation composition (see the [Statistical Notes](#) on the PTI website).
- The population source used to determine the practice list sizes is the Community Health Index (CHI) record, as at 30 September for the 8 respective years.
- For this publication the method for dealing with small numbers has been improved and applied to all new and historic data. This has resulted in lower estimates over the board, in particular for less common conditions or further subdivided information. Therefore figures shown here are not strictly comparable to those published previously (see '[Note of Revisions](#)' on the PTI website or within Appendix 1 of the full report).

## Contact

**Annemarie van Heelsum**  
Senior Information Analyst  
[a.vanheelsum@nhs.net](mailto:a.vanheelsum@nhs.net)  
0131 275 7099

**Lindsey Harkins**  
Information Analyst  
[lindsey.harkins@nhs.net](mailto:lindsey.harkins@nhs.net)  
0131 275 6358

## Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#).

### About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up. Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

### Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#) [www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/)