About this Release
This release updates the medicines used in mental health in Scotland for financial years between 2002/03 and 2011/12. Each condition (Insomnia and Anxiety, Psychoses and related disorders, Depression, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Dementia) have all been reviewed independently and analysis includes the number of dispensed items, defined daily doses and gross ingredient cost. Data by NHS Board and annual trends are also shown. The number of patients has also been published at NHS Scotland level for years 2009/10 to 2011/12.

Key Points
- The patient based analysis is a new feature of this publication. ISD will be developing this further in the future. The CHI capture rate in 2011/12 for each topic contained within this report is:
  - Hypnotics and Anxiolytics – 93.2%
  - Psychoses and Related Disorders – 94.3%
  - Antidepressants – 95.9%
  - ADHD – 91.8%
  - Dementia – 87.0%
- In 2011/12, 363,823 patients were dispensed a hypnotic, anxiolytic or barbiturate.
- In 2011/12 there were 78,471 patients who were dispensed drugs used in psychoses and related disorders.
- There were 718,330 patients in 2011/12 that were dispensed an antidepressant.
- In 2011/12, 7,511 patients were dispensed a drug for ADHD, of which 82% were male and 18% female.
- For dementia, 17,546 patients were dispensed an item in 2011/12, representing a 10.4% increase on the number of patients dispensed an item in 2010/12.

Background
Information on drugs which are indicated for the medicines used in mental health, are obtained from NHS prescription dispensed in Scotland that are prescribed in Scotland and elsewhere in the United Kingdom. All these prescriptions are dispensed by community
pharmacies, dispensing doctors, a small number of speciality appliance suppliers and stoma providers. GPs write the vast majority of these prescriptions with the remainder written by authorised prescribers such as nurses and dentists. Also included are prescriptions written in hospitals that were dispensed in the community, but exclude prescriptions dispensed within hospitals. Items which are purchased over the counter are excluded.

For the first time patient based analysis has been made possible through the recent availability of comprehensive patient identifiable data. All NHS patients have a unique Community Health Index (CHI) number which makes it possible to identify which prescription items have been dispensed for individual patients. Prior to April 2009, the proportion of prescriptions with a valid CHI number recorded was not comprehensive enough to make patient based analysis possible. For medicines used in mental health, CHI capture rates have improved, becoming high enough to permit accurate patient analyses for financial years 2009/10 to 2011/12.

Two antidepressant drugs, Citalopram and Sertaline, were in short supply throughout 2010/11 and 2011/12. Pharmacists were therefore required to pay a higher price for these drugs but they were reimbursed for the full amount paid.

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**Further Information**

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

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**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/