

Prescribing & Medicines: Minor Ailments Service (MAS)



Year Ending 31 March 2016

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About this release

This report from the Information Services Division provides information on the Minor Ailments Service (MAS) that allows community pharmacies to provide direct care to eligible individuals for common conditions which require little or no medical intervention. The report contains information on the number of registrations and treatments for MAS during financial year 2015/16. It contains a monthly breakdown of the number of patients registered for the service and provides information on the number of items dispensed.

Main points

- At 31 March 2016, 17.6% of the population of Scotland (946,804 people) were registered for MAS.
- The service dispensed over 2.1 million items with a total value of £5.1 million, similar to the previous two years. This accounted for 2.2% of all items dispensed by community pharmacies in Scotland.
- The most common drug dispensed was paracetamol, which accounted for 21.5% of items.
- By 31 March 2016 every community pharmacy in Scotland had patients registered for the service. Registrations increased by 3.6% between 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Background

The Minor Ailments Service supports the provision of direct pharmaceutical care within NHSScotland. It allows eligible people to register with a community pharmacy for the consultation and treatment of common conditions. The pharmacist then advises, treats or refers the person (or provides a combination of these actions) according to their needs.

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Find out more

ISD holds several decades of information on medicines prescribed within NHSScotland. We currently have data on over one billion prescriptions. All of the information we publish on prescribing is available on our website at: <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Prescribing-and-medicines/>

Further information can be found in the [Minor Ailments Service Report for 2015/16](#).

All the data contained in this report is also available as [downloadable data tables](#).

To find out who is [eligible for the Minor Ailments Service - visit the Community Pharmacy website](#).

ISD and 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. [Find out more about our statistics](#).