

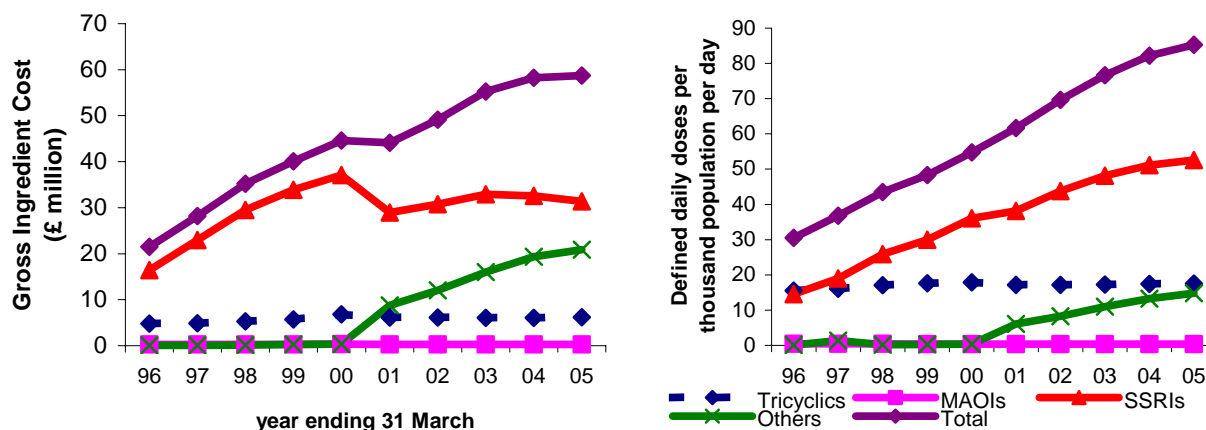


Delivering our aims

We continue to believe that better information allows better decisions to be taken and better care to be delivered. The programme is working to do this through a number of activities. Some are described below.

Improving access to nationally consistent information: graph of the month

Gross ingredient costs^{1,2} and number of defined daily doses^{3,4} of antidepressants in Scotland; 1995/96 to 2004/05.



1 Gross ingredient cost is the cost of an item before any discounts that may be obtained from the supplier by a pharmacy and does not include dispensing costs or fees (see <http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?pContentID=2225>).

2 Drugs dispensed in hospitals are excluded, although drugs prescribed in hospital but dispensed in the community are included. Antidepressants can be used to treat indications other than depression

3 A Defined Daily Dose (DDD) is defined as *the assumed average maintenance dose per day for a drug used on its main indication in adults*. The number of DDDs per 1,000 population per day is therefore an estimate of what proportion of the population receives a certain drug treatment. For example, an estimated drug consumption of 10 DDDs/1000 population/day corresponds to a daily use of the drug by 1% of the population. For more detail on factors affecting DDD see <http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?pContentID=3648>. The population considered in the calculation of DDDs/1000 population/day for anti-depressants is all those who are 15 and over.

4 Much further information on prescribing of anti-depressants (and other drugs to treat mental ill-health), including numbers of prescribed items, prescribing statistics for each NHS board, and data on individual drugs, is available at http://www.isdscotland.org/isd/info3.jsp?pContentID=3754&p_applic=CCC&p_service=Content.show&. Although the gross ingredient cost is high, it is spread over a large number of people - 357,550 as estimated from the number of DDDs per 1000 population per day. From the data presented it can be seen that the **cost per defined daily dose (DDD)** for all anti-depressants in 2004/05 is **£0.45** or £164 per year.

Building consensus on what information to share and how

Final preparations are being made for test implementation of the **Information Core for Integrated Care (ICIC)**. The short-life working group agreed the content of the encounter and intervention dataset at the end of October and we currently have 3 confirmed sites for test implementation. Dumfries and Galloway (Stewartry Adult CMHT), Ayrshire and Arran (North Cunninghame CMHT) and Borders (South CMHT) will collect the ICIC for a 3-month period early next year. The sites are currently preparing for test implementation and making all the necessary tweaks to their existing systems to ensure the information can be collected into their existing systems in a consistent, standardised way. Forth Valley and Lothian are also keen to participate and discussions continue with them. It is hoped to have all sites up and running by the end of January 2006. For more details contact the project manager at Fiona.Black@isd.csa.scot.nhs.uk.

Supporting national policy developments

As usual we have been involved in work in several areas. For example, we participated in a preliminary meeting considering preparation of the Mental Health Delivery Plan set out in **Delivering for Health**. And are members of a group developing clinical indicators on depression for publication in December 2006.

We have also been involved in much discussion to refine our proposal for an awareness-raising campaign to support cultural and behavioural change. A paper with indicative costs will be discussed at the January meeting of the **eHealth programme board**. For more information contact alastair.philp@nhs.net.