

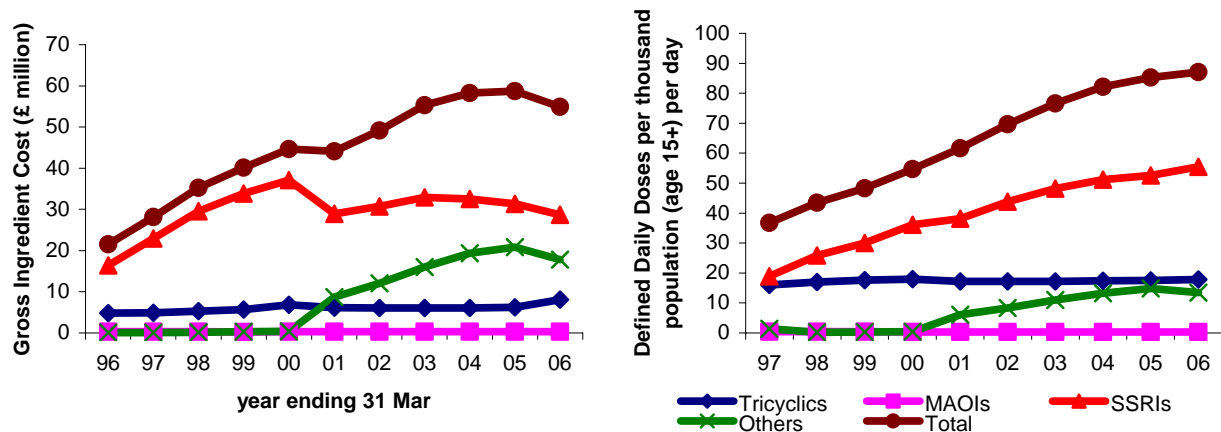


Delivering our aims

We continue to believe that better information allows better decisions to be taken and better care to be delivered. The programme is working to achieve this aim through a number of activities that are laid out at [our website](#). For more details contact alastair.philp@isd.csa.scot.nhs.uk or follow the [links](#) below.

Improving access to nationally consistent information: graph of the month

Gross ingredient costs^{1,2}, and number of defined daily doses^{3,4} per 1000 population (age 15+) per day, of antidepressants in Scotland; 1996/97 to 2005/06.



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/mentalhealthprescribing>. Although the gross ingredient cost is high, it is spread over a large number of people - 360,582 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 2005/06 is **£0.42** or £153 per year.

Building consensus on what information to share and how

A final draft of the evaluation report of the testing of the **Information Core for Integrated Care (ICIC)** has now been produced. This contains a number of recommendations for future work. The report will be published shortly, following consultation with the test sites. For further information please contact alastair.philp@isd.csa.scot.nhs.uk

The testing of the **Psychiatric Inpatient Clinical Discharge Summary Information Set (PIC-DSIS)** has now been completed and an evaluation report is in preparation. For more details please contact Margaret.Mason@isd.csa.scot.nhs.uk.

Supporting national policy developments

Delivering for Mental Health introduced **3 targets and 14 commitments** and a number of initiatives have already been “considered, commenced and progressed to help advance its delivery”. These include the development of descriptions of service functions to allow benchmarking and work with NHS **Quality Improvement Scotland** to accredit diagnosis-specific **integrated care pathways**. New performance management (HEAT) targets in anti-depressant prescribing and re-admissions to psychiatric hospitals now accompany the suicide reduction target. iMHIP have continued work to support each of these nationally important strands of work. Latest publications and progress will be appearing shortly on <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/health/mental-health/servicespolicy/intro>.