

Publication Summary



National Naloxone Programme Scotland – naloxone kits issued in 2013/14 and trends in opioid-related deaths

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About this Release

This is the second annual release of monitoring information from the National Naloxone Programme in Scotland. It presents information on the number of 'take-home' naloxone kits (hereafter referred to as 'THN kits' or 'kits') issued (in the community and by prisons prior to release) as part of the National Programme during 2013/14 (and comparisons with 2011/12 & 2012/13). In order to assess the impact of the Programme, numbers of opioid-related deaths since the establishment of the National Programme are also explored.

Key points

- There were 6,472 THN kits issued in Scotland in 2013/14, through the National Naloxone Programme. This compares with 3,878 kits issued in 2012/13, an increase of 2,594 THN kits (66.9%).
- A total of 13,808 kits (includes kits issued in the community and from prison) were issued in Scotland between 1st April 2011 – 31st March 2014.
- There were 5,395 kits issued in the community (an increase of 72% compared to 2012/13) and 1,077 kits issued by prisons (an increase of 44%).
- Ten NHS Boards increased their distribution of kits issued in the community between 2012/13 and 2013/14, distribution decreased in three and one NHS Board is not currently participating in the programme. Six prisons increased their distribution of kits at liberation in 2013/14 compared to 2012/13, and ten prisons decreased their distribution of kits.
- The percentage of opioid-related deaths occurring within four weeks of prison release was 9.8% during 2006-10 (baseline period), compared to 8.4% in 2011, 5.5% in 2012 and 4.7% in 2013. This reduction coincides with the introduction of the National Naloxone Programme and distribution of kits to 'at risk' prisoners on liberation.

- The percentage of opioid-related deaths occurring within four weeks of a drug-related hospital discharge was 9.7% during 2006-10 (baseline). This figure fluctuated around the same level in 2011 (10%), 2012 (7%) and 2013 (10%). Currently the National Naloxone Programme is not implemented within the hospital setting, but there would be potential benefits to co-ordinated naloxone distribution from hospitals, especially for older and female high-risk opioid users.

Background

The monitoring analyses presented here provide vital evidence of the reach of the National Naloxone Programme in Scotland. The Scottish Government commissioned the Information Services Division (ISD) of NHS National Services Scotland to report on the monitoring data, including using a national dataset (agreed with the National Naloxone Advisory Group) and a database set up at ISD.

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist which can temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, providing more time for emergency services to arrive and treatment to be given. 'Take home' naloxone is administered intramuscularly. The supply of a 'THN kit follows training on how to administer it safely and quickly.

Incremental rollout of community-based 'take-home' naloxone and associated data collection started in Scotland in April 2011. The supply of 'take home' naloxone by prisons was introduced, incrementally, from February 2011. By June 2011 all Scottish prisons (at that time) were participating in the programme. From 1st November 2011 responsibility for prisoner health care transferred from the Scottish Prison Service (SPS) to the NHS.

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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.

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