

Publication Summary



ScotPHO website Alcohol section update

Publication date – 25 November 2014

About this Release

The alcohol section on the ScotPHO website has been updated to include new data on dispensing of drugs for the treatment of alcohol dependency in Scotland. These data can be found on the [Treatment for Alcohol Misuse](#) page of the ScotPHO alcohol section.

Key Points

- In Scotland in 2013/14 a total of 9,184 patients were dispensed at least one drug for alcohol dependence. This figure has remained broadly steady over the last 5 years (patient level information is only available since 2009/10).
- In 2013/14 5,340 patients were dispensed Acamprosate Calcium, 4,878 were dispensed Disulfiram and 53 were dispensed Nalmefene.
- Over the last five years, treatment with drugs for alcohol dependence has been most common in patients between 45 and 49 years of age, and in 2013/14 72% of the patients dispensed drugs for alcohol dependence were aged between 35 and 59. Over the last five years treatment in younger age groups has generally slightly decreased and in older age groups slightly increased. In 2013/14 of all those dispensed drugs for alcohol dependence 62% were male.
- Treatment with drugs for alcohol dependence is much more common in the more deprived areas; in 2013/14 4.3 times more patients were living in the most deprived quintile compared to the least deprived quintile. 36% of patients dispensed drugs for alcohol dependence lived in the 20% most deprived areas.
- The gross ingredient cost of drugs for alcohol dependence was £1.1 million in 2013/14. This has increased fairly steadily over the last ten years. The number of Defined Daily Doses dispensed has also been increasing over this time period, although it fell slightly between 2012/13 and 2013/14.

Background

The number of patients who have been prescribed any alcohol dependence drug is based on prescriptions where the CHI number was recorded. However, the CHI capture rate, although increasing in recent years, is not complete and varied in the latest year between 83.1% for the new drug Nalmefene, 86.8% for Disulfiram, to 93.5% for Acamprosate.

Nalmefene was granted a European marketing authorisation in February 2013. It was launched in the UK in May 2013, and approved in Scotland in October 2013.

The ScotPHO website contains comprehensive information on a wide range of topics grouped into sections including: Behaviour; Health, wellbeing and disease; and Clinical risk factors. Along with summary data and statistics, the website provides background information, interpretation, policy notes, commentaries on data sources, references and links to further information. Alcohol data relevant to local areas is now available in the [ScotPHO Alcohol Profiles](#).

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Further Information

Further information on Alcohol can be found on the [ScotPHO website](#), and information about prescribed items in Scotland can be found at the ISD Website under the [Prescribing & Medicines](#) topic.

About ISD

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