About this Release
This is the second publication by the Information Services Division on patients seen by GP Out of Hours (OOH) services in Scotland and provides data on contacts from 1 April to 30 September 2015.

Key Points
- The number of patients contacting GP OOH Services in the 6 month period April-September (2014 and 2015) has remained level. In 2015, 432,206 patients contacted the GP OOH service, a slight fall of 1% from 2014. This equates to eight out of every 100 individuals in Scotland contacting the service between April and September 2015.
• NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and NHS Tayside have the highest contacts with 102 and 92 per 1,000 population respectively, as reflected in the above map.

• More than half the contacts with GP OOH services (56%) involve patients attending Primary Care Emergency Centres; around 1 in 5 patients (21%) receive telephone advice from either an OOH GP or Nurse and a similar number (19%) are visited at home.

• The types of OOH contacts vary between NHS boards with the more rural areas having a higher proportion of home visits.

• The number of monthly OOH contacts ranged from 65,117 (in June 2015) to almost 83,000 (in May 2015), in part reflecting the differing number of weekend days and public holidays.

• The most common age groups of patients contacting GP OOH services are children under 5, women in their twenties and people aged 75 and over.

• The 20% of the population who live in the most deprived areas account for 27% of all GP OOH contacts.

• Over a quarter of patients (28%), who contacted the GP OOH service did so more than once during the 6 month period.

Background
Across Scotland, NHS Boards provide Primary Care OOH services for patients when their registered GP Practice is closed.

Data to manage patient care are collected by GP OOH services on an IT system called Adastra. These data are then extracted and submitted to ISD on a weekly basis.

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Further Information
Further information can be found in the Full Publication Report or on the ISD website

You may also be interested to read the recent publication on the National Review of Primary Care Out of Hours Services.

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. Further information about our statistics.