

Publication Summary



Prescribing & Medicines: Medicines used in Mental Health

Financial years 2001/02 – 2010/11

Publication date – 27 September 2011



About this Release

This release updates the medicines used in mental health in Scotland for financial years between 2001/02 and 2010/11. Each condition (Insomnia and Anxiety, Psychoses and related disorders, Depression, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Dementia) have all been reviewed independently and analysis includes the number of dispensed items, defined daily doses and gross ingredient cost. Data by NHS Board and annual trends are also shown.

Key Points

- The prescribing of Hypnotics, Anxiolytics and Barbiturates increased between 2009/10 and 2010/11, from 2.13 million items 2.14 million items, a rise of 0.37%.
- A total of 785,741 items for drugs used in psychoses and related disorders were dispensed during 2010/11, an increase of 29,786 (3.93%) items over the previous financial year.
- A total of 4.66 million antidepressant items were dispensed during 2010/11, an increase of 350,372 from the previous financial year. It is estimated 11.3% of the Scottish population aged between 15 and over make daily use of antidepressant drugs.
- Prescribing of drugs indicated for ADHD grew by 3.8 % between 2009/10 and 2010/11, up from 75,768 to 78,679 dispensed items.
- Prescribing of dementia drugs in Scotland has continued to increase year upon year, from 121,833 dispensed items in 2009/10 to 135,822 dispensed items in 2010/11.

Background

Information on drugs which are indicated for the medicines used in mental health, are obtained from NHS prescription dispensed in Scotland that are prescribed in Scotland and elsewhere in the United Kingdom. All these prescriptions are dispensed by community pharmacies, dispensing doctors, a small number of speciality appliance suppliers and stoma providers. GPs write the vast majority of these prescriptions with the remainder written by authorised prescribers such as nurses and dentists. Also included are prescriptions written in hospitals that were dispensed in the community, but exclude

prescriptions dispensed within hospitals. Items which are purchased over the counter are excluded.

Two antidepressant drugs, Citalopram and Sertaline, were in short supply throughout 2010/11. Pharmacists were therefore required to pay a higher price for these drugs but they were reimbursed for the full amount paid.

Contact

Mark Fraser

Senior Information Analyst

Markfraser@nhs.net

0131 275 7157

Ross MacLean

Information Analyst

Ross.Maclean@nhs.net

0131 275 7639

Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#).

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