About this Release
This release updates the prescribing of drugs used in the treatment of obesity in Scotland for financial years between 2001/02 and 2010/11. This 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
- A total of 95,108 items were prescribed in Scotland during 2010/11, a decrease of 29.3% on the previous year.
- Expenditure on obesity drugs decreased from £4.64 million to £3.39 million between 2009/10 and 2010/11.
- Prescribing of Orlistat fell by 11.1%, down from 106,927 items in 2009/10 to 95,084 in 2010/11.

Background
Three drugs are indicated for the treatment of obesity, as described in the British National Formulary section 4.5; Orlistat, Rimonabant and Sibutramine. Rimonabant was withdrawn by the European Commission on the 16th January 2009 and Sibutramine was suspended across the European Union on the 21st January 2010 as deemed unacceptably safe.

The publication will no longer be updated due to the withdrawal of Rimonabant and Sibutramine, there is only one drug which is currently dispensed within the community.

Information on drugs which are indicated for the treatment of obesity, 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
Information Services Division

hospitals that were dispensed in the community, but exclude prescriptions dispensed within hospitals. Items which are purchased over the counter are excluded.

Contact

Sinfrosa Pizzo
Information Analyst
Sinfrosa.Pizzo@nhs.net
0141 282 2020

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.

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. Further information on ISD’s statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the ISD website.