

Publication Summary



Antibacterial Primary Care Prescribing Indicators Annual Report 2010-11

Financial Years 2006-07 – 2010-11

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About this Release

This report from the Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group (SAPG) information workstream presents data for the financial years 2006/07 – 2010/11 from the national prescribing indicators on use of systemic antibacterials in primary care in Scotland. It focuses on the prescribing indicators related to the initial priority areas for SAPG; restricting the use antibacterials associated with a higher risk of *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI), promotion of recommended antibacterials and minimising unnecessary prescribing.

Key Points

- There were 163,000 (24%) fewer prescriptions for antibacterials associated with a higher risk of CDI dispensed in 2010-11 than in 2009-10.
- Seasonal variation in fluoroquinolone use is one of the three prescribing indicators agreed by SAPG and the Scottish Government Health Directorate (SGHD) in support of the HEAT target for CDI reduction. Based on data for year ending March 2011, twelve NHS Boards were below the target and the remaining 2 NHS Boards only slightly above it.
- There was an increase of 184,000 (6%) prescriptions for recommended antibacterials dispensed in 2010-11 than in 2009-10.
- In 2010-11, there was a small increase of 28,000 (0.5%) prescriptions for systemic antibacterials dispensed in Scotland compared to 2009-10. This increase was not statistically significant.

Background

Resistance to antimicrobials is recognised nationally and internationally as a major threat to public health and patient safety. It is accepted that exposure to antimicrobials and in particular the use of broad spectrum antibacterials is associated with the development of antimicrobial resistance and is recognised as an important risk factor for CDI.

SAPG is a national clinical multi-disciplinary forum formed in March 2008 by SGHD and its primary objective is to co-ordinate and deliver a national framework for antimicrobial

stewardship to enhance the quality of antimicrobial prescribing and infection management in Scotland.

Following discussion at SAPG and consultation with NHS Board Antimicrobial Management Teams (AMT) and other stakeholders, a set of national prescribing indicators related to the use of antibacterials in primary care was developed for Scotland.

Data on use of systemic antibacterials comes from a database of all NHS prescriptions written by general practitioners, nurses and community pharmacists which are dispensed in the community in Scotland. This report does not take into account antibacterials dispensed by hospitals or hospital based clinics.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [full SAPG report](#) or on the [ISD website](#)

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