About this Release
This release provides information on the prescription cost analysis and associated statistics; volume, cost, and the top 10 drugs for financial year 2011/12.

Key Points
- In 2011/12 simvastatin (used for controlling cholesterol) was the most commonly prescribed drug by volume, replacing aspirin for the first time.

- Salmeterol with fluticasone propionate (used for respiratory conditions) was the most expensive by gross ingredient cost in 2011/12, replacing atorvastatin for the first time.

- The total volume of items dispensed in Scotland in 2011/12 is 94.6 million, a rise of 3.8% between 2010/11 and 2011/12.

- The total (net) cost rose by 3.2% in 2011/12 compared to 2010/11 to £1.18 billion.

- NHS Lothian has the lowest items (13.1) and net cost (£179.69) per person on a GP list size, with NHS Western Isles the highest in terms of items (23.7) and NHS Ayrshire and Arran in terms of net cost (£231.75) in 2011/12.

Background
Prescription cost analysis information is obtained from NHS prescriptions 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 specialist 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.
About ISD
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Official Statistics
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