

# Publication Summary



## Prescribing & Medicines: Prescription Cost Analysis

Financial Year 2011/12

Publication date – 26 June 2012



### 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 proprionate (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.

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## 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.

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### 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](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/) [www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/)