

Publication Summary



Prescribing & Medicines: Medicines used in Mental Health

Financial years 2002/03 – 2011/12

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About this Release

This release updates the medicines used in mental health in Scotland for financial years between 2002/03 and 2011/12. 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. The number of patients has also been published at NHS Scotland level for years 2009/10 to 2011/12.

Key Points

- The patient based analysis is a new feature of this publication. ISD will be developing this further in the future. The CHI capture rate in 2011/12 for each topic contained within this report is:
 - Hypnotics and Anxiolytics – 93.2%
 - Psychoses and Related Disorders – 94.3%
 - Antidepressants – 95.9%
 - ADHD – 91.8%
 - Dementia – 87.0%
- In 2011/12, 363,823 patients were dispensed a hypnotic, anxiolytic or barbiturate.
- In 2011/12 there were 78,471 patients who were dispensed drugs used in psychoses and related disorders.
- There were 718,330 patients in 2011/12 that were dispensed an antidepressant.
- In 2011/12, 7,511 patients were dispensed a drug for ADHD, of which 82% were male and 18% female.
- For dementia, 17,546 patients were dispensed an item in 2011/12, representing a 10.4% increase on the number of patients dispensed an item in 2010/12.

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.

For the first time patient based analysis has been made possible through the recent availability of comprehensive patient identifiable data. All NHS patients have a unique Community Health Index (CHI) number which makes it possible to identify which prescription items have been dispensed for individual patients. Prior to April 2009, the proportion of prescriptions with a valid CHI number recorded was not comprehensive enough to make patient based analysis possible. For medicines used in mental health, CHI capture rates have improved, becoming high enough to permit accurate patient analyses for financial years 2009/10 to 2011/12.

Two antidepressant drugs, Citalopram and Sertaline, were in short supply throughout 2010/11 and 2011/12. Pharmacists were therefore required to pay a higher price for these drugs but they were reimbursed for the full amount paid.

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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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