

Publication Summary



Prescribing & Medicines: Prescribing of Smoking Cessation Interventions in Scotland

Financial years 2002/03 – 2011/12

Publication date – 25 September 2012



About this Release

This release updates the prescribing of smoking cessation products in Scotland for financial years between 2002/03 and 2011/12. 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

- Prescribing of smoking cessation products show seasonal variation, the sharp peaks which start rising from January into February, culminate in March.
- Prescribing of smoking cessation products increased sharply just before the ban on smoking in public places was introduced in Scotland in March 2006.
- Of the prescribable treatments for smoking cessation, NRT is the most prevalent.
- Between 2006/07 and 2011/12 the number of dispensed items has increased from 254,095 to 583,716 or 129.7%. Between 2010/11 and 2011/12 they increased from 443,829 or 31.5%.
- Between 2006/07 and 2011/12 the gross ingredient cost increased from £6,624,165 to £14,953,380 or 125.7%. Between 2011/12 and 2010/11 it increased from £12,505,057 or 19.6%.

Background

Information on drugs which are indicated for the treatment of smoking cessation products, 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.

On the 29th August 2008, the Public Health Service element of the new [Community Pharmacy Contract](#) was introduced in Scotland. This involves a program of up to twelve weeks in which people can visit their local pharmacist and be supported in their attempt to stop smoking, which may include prescribing of Nicotine Replacement Therapy.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#).

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