



Publication Summary

Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group

Primary Care Prescribing Indicators

Annual Report 2011-12

30th October 2012

About this Release

This is the fourth annual report from the Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group (SAPG) published by Information Services Division (ISD)/ Health Protection Scotland (HPS) of NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) containing information on key national primary care antibacterial prescribing indicators. The purpose of this report is to support the work of NHS board Antimicrobial Management Teams (AMTs) and SAPG by enabling identification of areas for detailed local analysis and discussion with prescribers to support improvement in the quality of antimicrobial prescribing.

The SAPG national prescribing indicators are accessible as standard reports within Prescribing Information System for Scotland (PRISMS). PRISMS is the web based application maintained by Information Services Division (ISD) of NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) giving access to prescribing information on all prescriptions dispensed in the community in Scotland in the last five years.

Key Points

- There were 76,000 (15%) fewer prescriptions for broad spectrum antibacterials associated with a higher risk of *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI) in primary care in Scotland than in 2010-11. This is the third successive year in which a reduction has been observed. Reductions have been observed in all but one NHS boards.
- An increase of 152,000 (5%) prescriptions for antibacterials recommended for first line empirical treatment of infections commonly encountered in primary care than in 2010-11. This builds upon the increase observed in each of the previous three years. The increase was observed across all NHS boards and suggests increased compliance with local prescribing policies.
- There were 10 NHS boards below the target for seasonal variation in fluoroquinolone use as part of the prescribing indicators in support of HEAT target for CDI.

- An increase of 2% ($p < 0.05$) in the total number of prescriptions for antibacterials than in 2010-11. This is equivalent to an increase of 98,000 prescriptions in 2011-12.

Background

The purpose of the report is to support the work of NHS board Antimicrobial Management Teams (AMTs) and is intended to enable AMTs to identify areas for detailed local analysis and discussion with prescribers to support improvement in prescribing practice. By highlighting patterns of change in the last twelve months the report is intended to support AMTs to monitor the impact of local and national interventions which aim to enhance the quality of antimicrobial prescribing in a primary care setting.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [full 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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