

# Publication Summary



## Prescribing & Medicines: Prescription Cost Analysis

Financial Year 2012/13

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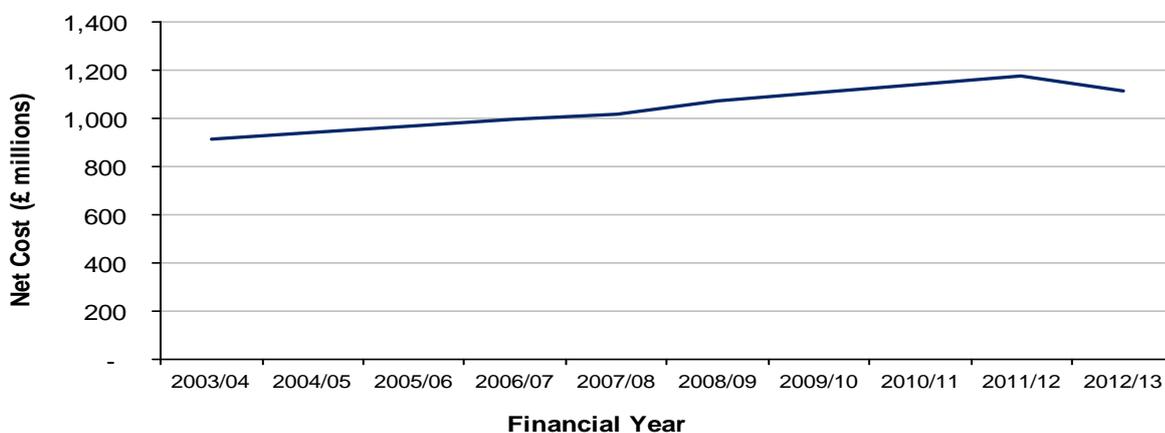
### About this Release

This release provides information on the prescription cost analysis and associated statistics; volume, cost, generic prescribing and the top 10 drugs for financial year 2012/13.

### Key Points

- Salmeterol with fluticasone propionate (used for respiratory conditions) was the most expensive drug by gross ingredient cost in 2012/13 at £44.38 million. This was also the case in 2011/12.
- In 2012/13 omeprazole (used for reducing stomach acid) was the most commonly prescribed drug by volume, replacing simvastatin which was the most commonly prescribed drug in 2011/12.
- The rate of generic prescribing was 82.8% in 2012/13. The percentage of generic prescribing has increased steadily since 2003/04, perhaps beginning to plateau from 2007/08.
- The total (net) cost of items dispensed in 2012/13 was £1.12 billion, a decrease of 5.0% compared to 2011/12. This is a break in the trend; prior to 2012/13 the net cost was steadily increasing year on year.

**Total (Net) cost (£) of items dispensed in NHS Scotland, 2003/04 – 2012/13**



Source: Prescribing Information System, ISD Scotland

- The total volume of items dispensed in Scotland in 2012/13 was 96.8 million, a rise of 2.3% between 2011/12 and 2012/13. The number of items dispensed has been increasing year on year with a total increase of 34.0% between 2003/04 and 2012/13.

## 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

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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/)