

Publication Summary



Prescribing & Medicines: Medicines used in Mental Health

Financial years 2003/04 – 2012/13

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About this Release

This release updates the medicines used in mental health in Scotland for financial years between 2003/04 and 2012/13. Data on five types of drugs is included: Hypnotics and Anxiolytics (used to treat insomnia and anxiety), Psychotics and related drugs, Antidepressants, Drugs used for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Drugs for Dementia. 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 2012/13.

Key Points

- The CHI capture rate in 2012/13 for each topic contained within this report is:
 - Hypnotics and Anxiolytics – 94.5%
 - Psychoses and Related Disorders – 95.1%
 - Antidepressants – 97.0%
 - ADHD – 91.4%
 - Dementia – 88.3%
- In 2012/13, 358,273 patients were dispensed a hypnotic, anxiolytic or barbiturate, 1.5% fewer than in 2011/12.
- The total cost of dispensing a hypnotic, anxiolytic or barbiturate increased from £7.11 million to £8.77 million (an increase of 23.3%) between 2011/12 and 2012/13.
- In Scotland a total of 80,479 patients received treatment for psychoses and related disorders in 2012/13, an increase of 2.6% compared to 2011/12.
- The total number of prescription items dispensed for psychoses and related disorders increased by 2.3% between 2011/12 and 2012/13, while the gross ingredient cost fell by 43.0% over the same time period.
- In 2012/13, 747,158 patients in Scotland were dispensed an antidepressant, an increase of 4.0% compared to 2011/12.
- The total cost of dispensing antidepressants was £29.5m, a fall of 5.9% on the cost in 2011/12.
- In 2012/13, 7,918 patients were dispensed a drug for ADHD, of which 81% were male and 19% female.

- In Scotland a total of 19,763 patients were dispensed a drug for dementia in 2012/13. This is an increase of 12.6% compared to 2011/12 (17,546 patients) and an increase of 39.9% since 2009/10 (14,122 patients).

Background

Information on drugs which are indicated for the medicines used in mental health, are obtained from NHS prescriptions prescribed in Scotland that are dispensed 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.

Patient based analysis is also included in the publication. 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 2012/13.

The hypnotic Temazepam was in short supply in 2012/13. 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](#).

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