

# Publication Summary



## Prescribing & Medicines: Prescribing of Smoking Cessation Interventions in Scotland

Financial years 2003/04 – 2012/13

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### About this Release

This release updates the prescribing of smoking cessation products in Scotland for financial years between 2003/04 and 2012/13. 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 shows seasonal variation, with sharp peaks which start rising from January into February, culminating 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, Nicotine Replacement Therapy is the most prevalent.
- Between the ban being introduced in 2006/07 and 2012/13 the number of dispensed items for Smoking Cessation increased from 254,095 to 624,107 an increase of (145.6%). Between 2011/12 and 2012/13 the increase was 40,391 items (up 6.9%).
- Between the ban being introduced in 2006/07 and 2012/13 the gross ingredient cost of Smoking Cessation items increased from £6,624,165 to £14,380,031 (up 117.1%). Between 2011/12 and 2012/13 it decreased by £573,349 (down 3.8%).
- This decrease in gross ingredient cost in 2012/13 in spite of the rise in number of items dispensed is a result of the decrease in average cost per item.

### Background

Information on drugs which are indicated for the treatment of smoking cessation, are obtained from NHS prescriptions prescribed in Scotland that are dispensed in Scotland or 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 prescriptions dispensed within hospitals and items 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.

### Contact

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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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