

Publication Summary



Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group

Primary Care Prescribing Indicators

Annual Report 2012-13

29th October 2013

About this Release

This is the fifth annual report for the Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group (SAPG) published by Information Services Division (ISD) and Health Protection Scotland (HPS), part of the Public Health and Intelligence (PHI) strategic business unit of NHS National Services Scotland. This report contains information on key national primary care antibacterial prescribing indicators.

The SAPG national prescribing indicators are accessible as standard reports within Prescribing Information System for Scotland (PRISMS), which is a web based application maintained by ISD giving access to prescribing information on all prescriptions dispensed in the community in Scotland in the last five years. For the first time, Community Health Index (CHI) numbers held in Prescribing Information Scotland (PIS) have been used to include patient based analysis such as use of antibacterials commonly used for treatment of Urinary Tract Infection. Also presented for the first time is information on dental and nurse antibacterial prescribing.

Key Points

- There was an increase of 128,369 prescriptions for antibacterials in 2012-13 which represents a 3.1% increase from 2011-12.
- There were 40,933 fewer prescriptions for antibacterials associated with a higher risk of *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI) in 2012-13, this is the fourth successive year a reduction has been observed. In 2012-13 antibacterials associated with a higher risk of CDI accounted for 8.9% of total use of antibacterials
- Recommended antibacterials accounted for 81.5% of all antibacterials prescribed in Scotland in 2012-13. This is an increase on 2011-12 and follows on from previously observed increases. The increase was observed in most NHS boards and suggests increased compliance with local prescribing policies.
- 13 out of 14 NHS boards had less than a 5% seasonal variation in fluoroquinolone use expressed in terms of items. Until June 2013, seasonal variation in fluoroquinolones

was used as a national antimicrobial prescribing indicator to support achievement of the HEAT target for reduction in CDI.

Background

The purpose of this report is to support the work of SAPG and Antimicrobial Management Teams (AMT) in NHS boards by enabling the identification of areas where detailed local analysis and discussion with prescribers may lead to improvements in the quality of antimicrobial prescribing. 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 have aimed 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 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. Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland - and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

Official Statistics

Information Services Division (ISD) is the principal and authoritative source of statistics on health and care services in Scotland. ISD is designated by legislation as a producer of 'Official Statistics'. Our official statistics publications are produced to a high professional standard and comply with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

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/