

Publication Summary



Prescribing & Medicines: Prescription Cost Analysis

Financial Year 2013/14

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About this Release

This release provides information on the prescription cost analysis, the volume and cost of prescriptions, generic prescribing and the top 10 drugs for the financial year 2013/14.

Key Points

- The total volume of items dispensed in Scotland in 2013/14 was 98.8 million, a rise of 1.8% between 2012/13 and 2013/14.
- The number of items dispensed has been increasing year on year with a total increase of 31.8% between 2004/05 and 2013/14.
- Over the last 10 years, the number of items dispensed has increased at a greater rate than the total cost of drugs, this is because a number of high volume and high cost drugs have come out of patent, and increasingly drugs are prescribed generically.
- The rate of generic prescribing was 83.2% in 2013/14. The percentage of generic prescribing has increased steadily since 2004/05.
- The total (net) cost of items dispensed in Scotland in 2013/14 was £1.15 billion, an increase of 2.5% compared to 2012/13. The net cost has increased overall by 21.9% over the last ten years, although it has fluctuated slightly in recent years.
- In 2013/14 omeprazole (used for reducing stomach acid) was the most commonly prescribed drug by volume. This was also the case in 2012/13.
- Inhalers containing the drug salmeterol with fluticasone propionate, used for respiratory conditions such as asthma, had the highest total gross ingredient cost in 2013/14 at £43.5 million. This has been the highest cost drug to NHSScotland since 2011/12.

Background

This information contained in this report is obtained from NHS prescriptions dispensed in Scotland. 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. It also includes prescriptions written in hospitals that were dispensed in the community. It does not include information on 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](#)

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