About this Release
This is the sixth annual report for the Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group (SAPG). The report contains information on key national primary care antibacterial prescribing indicators. The purpose of this report is to support the work of Antimicrobial Management Teams (AMTs) in NHS boards and SAPG by enabling identification of areas for detailed local analysis and discussion with prescribers to support improvement in the quality of antimicrobial prescribing. This report is published by Information Services Division (ISD) and Health Protection Scotland (HPS) of NHS National Services Scotland (NSS).

The SAPG national prescribing indicators are accessible as standard reports within Prescribing Information System for Scotland (PRISMS). PRISMS is the 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. This report also includes some patient level analysis using Community Health Index (CHI) numbers which are held within Prescribing Information System (PIS) and includes for the first time information on the frequency of prescribing to individuals.

Key Points
- A decrease of 6.5% in the total number of prescriptions for antibacterials. This is equivalent to a decrease of 276,383 prescriptions in 2013-14.

- Using prescribing data from Jan-Mar 2014, one year from the baseline, nine of 14 NHS boards met the level three quality indicator target of having at least 50% of practices at or below the baseline 25th percentile or made the minimum acceptable reduction. Overall, 57.5% of practices in Scotland achieved the target.

- There were 44,173 (11.6%) fewer prescriptions for broad spectrum antibacterials associated with a higher risk of *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI) in primary care in Scotland than in 2012-13. This is the fifth successive year in which a reduction has been observed. Reductions have been observed in 11 NHS boards.
• The proportion of antibacterial prescribing by nurse prescribers increased by 0.5% in 2013-14 while the proportion of antibacterial prescribing by dentists increased by 0.1% in the same period. Together, nurse and dental prescribing made up 12.9% of all antibacterial prescribing.

Background
The purpose of this report is to support the work of SAPG and Antimicrobial Management Teams (AMTs) 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.