

Publication Summary



Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group

Primary Care Prescribing Indicators Annual Report 2013-14

14th October 2014

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](#)

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/