

Publication Summary



Prescribing & Medicines: Minor Ailments Service (MAS)

Financial Year 2014/15

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About this Release

This report from the Information Services Division provides information on the Minor Ailments Service that allows community pharmacies to provide direct care to eligible individuals for common conditions which require little or no medical intervention. The report contains information on the number of registrations and treatments for the Minor Ailment Service during financial year 2014/15. It contains a monthly breakdown of the number of patients registered for the service and provides information on the number of items dispensed.

Key points

- At 31 March 2015, nearly 18% of the population of Scotland were registered for the Minor Ailments Service, a total of 913,483 people.
- Over 2.1 million items were dispensed under the Minor Ailments Service, accounting for 2.2% of all items dispensed by community pharmacies in Scotland.
- The cost of items dispensed under the Minor Ailments Service in 2014/15 was £5 million.
- Paracetamol (in all formulations) was the drug most frequently dispensed through the Minor Ailments Service in 2014/15, accounting for 21.4% of items dispensed. This accounts for 5.4% of the total cost of paracetamol items dispensed by community pharmacies in Scotland for that year.
- Every community pharmacy in Scotland had patients registered for the Minor Ailments Service at 31 March 2015. The total number of registrations increased by 2.0% between financial years 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Background

The Minor Ailments Service supports the provision of direct pharmaceutical care within NHSScotland. It allows eligible people to register with a community pharmacy for the consultation and treatment of common conditions. The pharmacist then advises, treats or refers the person (or provides a combination of these actions) according to their needs.

Over the next year ISD aim to review the format of this publication. The intention is to create a new publication that provides information cover a range of services provided through Community Pharmacies in Scotland.

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Further Information

ISD holds several decades of information on medicines prescribed within NHSScotland. We currently have data on over one billion prescriptions. All of the information we publish on prescribing is available on our website at: <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Prescribing-and-medicines/>

Further information can be found in the [Minor Ailments Service Report for 2014/15](#).

All the data contained in this report is also available as [downloadable data tables](#).

To find out who is [eligible for the Minor Ailments Service - visit the Community Pharmacy 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/