

Publication Summary



Prescribing & Medicines: Prescription Cost Analysis

Financial Year 2014/15

Publication date – 30 June 2015



About this Release

Information Services Division report on the number and cost of NHS prescriptions dispensed in the community in Scotland for the financial year 2014/15.

Key Points

- The total number of items dispensed in 2014/15 was 101.1 million, an increase of 2.4% compared to 2013/14. The number of items dispensed has been increasing year on year with a total increase of 34.9% over the last ten years.
- The total net cost of items dispensed in 2014/15 was £1.19 billion; this is an increase of 4.3% compared to 2013/14. The net cost of items dispensed has increased overall by 27.1% over the last ten years.
- In 2014/15, the drug omeprazole, used for reducing stomach acid, was the most commonly prescribed drug. This has been the most commonly prescribed drug since 2012/13.
- Inhalers that contain the drug salmeterol with fluticasone propionate, prescribed for respiratory conditions such as asthma, had the highest total gross ingredient cost in 2014/15 at £41.0 million. This has been the highest cost drug since 2011/12.

Background

The information contained in this annual report is obtained from NHS prescriptions dispensed in the community in Scotland. These 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. This report does not include information on

prescriptions dispensed within hospitals but does include information on prescriptions written in hospitals that were dispensed in the community. Prescriptions written on hospital forms are reimbursed from the hospital (secondary care) budget.

Net cost is the gross cost minus any charges paid by patients. The charges paid by patients come from English prescription forms dispensed in Scotland.

In Scotland, the gross ingredient cost is the cost of drugs and appliances reimbursed to prescribers, before deduction of any dispenser discount.

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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 for 2014/15 can be found in the full [Prescription Cost Analysis Report](#).

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

This report will be updated in June 2016.

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/