

Publication Summary



Report on Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Humans in 2014

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About this Release

This is the seventh annual report published by Health Protection Scotland (HPS) and the Information Services Division (ISD) of NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) on antibiotic use and antibiotic resistance in Scotland. The majority of information presented here covers the period up to the end of 2014.

Key Points

- The Scottish Management of Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan 2014-18 (ScotMARAP 2) aims to reduce the use of antibiotics in Scotland. In 2014 the rate of antibiotics dispensed in primary care was reduced by 1.9% compared with 2013, the second successive reduction in primary care. This reduction means the rate of antibiotic prescribing in primary care is back down to the level seen in 2005.
- However, the rate of antibiotic use in hospitals was 5.9% higher in 2014 compared with 2013. This continues an upward trend observed since 2009.
- Overall there was continued progress toward reduction in the use of the antibiotics that are particularly associated with a risk of *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI). In primary care, where the bulk of prescribing takes place, there was a 5.0% decrease in the use of these antibiotics. However, there was a 9.7% increase in their use in hospitals.
- Antibiotic resistance in the most common bacterial infections was stable in 2014, continuing the flat trend since 2011. However, resistance to a wide range of important antibiotics continues to occur for some serious infections.
- Carbapenemase producing organisms (CPOs) are an important cause of antibiotic resistance. The number of reported CPOs continues to increase in Scotland (43 were reported in 2014); though part of this increase could be due to improved reporting.
- The proportion of Meticillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) among all *S. aureus* infections continues to decrease and was 9.2% in 2014.

Background

Resistance to antibiotics continues to pose a serious public health threat globally. The loss of effective antibiotics undermines our ability to fight infectious diseases. The problem is made worse by the fact that a new infectious disease has been discovered almost every year over the past 30 years, while very few new antibiotics have been developed.

This annual report presents detailed information on the use of antibiotics and on antibiotic resistance in Scotland and provides recommendations on interventions and national healthcare improvement activities aimed at stemming the tide of further antibiotic resistance.

Note that while the term 'antibiotic' has been used in this summary for clarity, the report focuses exclusively on antibacterial drugs, those drugs that act against bacteria causing infections. The term 'antimicrobial' covers drugs that act against any kind of micro-organism, including fungi, viruses and bacteria.

Contact

Camilla Wiuff
Health Protection Scotland
Strategic Lead, Microbiology
NSS.HPSAMR@nhs.net
0141 282 2927

Guy McGivern
Information Services Division
Senior Information Analyst
guymcgivern@nhs.net
0131 275 7337

Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#) or [HPS 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/