

Publication Summary



Medicines used in Mental Health

Years 2004/05 – 2014/15

Publication date – 13 October 2015



About this Release

This release by Information Services Division (ISD) Scotland updates the medicines used in mental health in Scotland for years between 2004/05 and 2014/15. Data on five types of drugs are included: Hypnotics and Anxiolytics (used to treat insomnia and anxiety), Antipsychotics and related drugs, Antidepressants, Drugs used for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Drugs for Dementia. Analysis includes the number of dispensed items, defined daily doses and cost. Data by NHS Board and annual trends are also shown. Counts of patients and counts by patient characteristics (age, gender and deprivation) are also published at NHSScotland level. This data is based on community prescribing and excludes hospital usage.

Key Points

- Dispensing of antipsychotics, antidepressants, drugs for ADHD and drugs for dementia has been steadily increasing over the past ten years. Dispensing of hypnotics and anxiolytics has remained stable in the past ten years although showed a small decrease (2.0%) this year.
- There is a trend of increasing total cost for antipsychotics, antidepressants and ADHD. This reflects increased usage. There has been a decrease in cost for hypnotics and anxiolytics and dementia drugs. This is primarily due to reductions in drug prices and drugs coming out of patent.
- All of the mental health drugs considered in this report show a consistent pattern of increasing volume dispensed with increasing patient deprivation. For elderly patients dispensed dementia drugs, this pattern is less pronounced, but still evident.
- For most of these groups of mental health drugs there are substantially more drugs dispensed to females than males. The exception to this is ADHD, where 80% of dispensing is to males.
- There is wide variation in dispensing of mental health drugs between NHS Boards (reflecting different populations and methods of service delivery).

Background

Information on drugs which are indicated for mental health conditions are obtained from NHS prescriptions that are prescribed in Scotland and that are dispensed in Scotland and elsewhere in the United Kingdom. All these prescriptions are dispensed by community pharmacies, dispensing doctors, a small number of speciality 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. Also included are prescriptions written in hospitals that were dispensed in the community, but exclude prescriptions dispensed within hospitals. Items which are purchased over the counter are excluded.

Patient based analysis is also included in the publication. All NHS patients have a unique Community Health Index (CHI) number which makes it possible to identify which prescription items have been dispensed for individual patients. Prior to April 2009, the proportion of prescriptions with a valid CHI number recorded was not comprehensive enough to make patient based analysis possible. For medicines used in mental health, CHI capture rates have improved, becoming high enough to permit accurate patient analyses from financial years 2009/10 onwards.

Contact

Karen Gronkowski
Senior Information Analyst
karengronkowski@nhs.net
0141 282 2206

Ross Murdoch
Information Analyst
rmurdoch@nhs.net
0131 275 6672

Further Information

Further information and supporting Excel tables can be found in the [Medicines Used In Mental Health](#) 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/