

## Practice level Prescribing data

Data to 29 February 2016

Publication Date – 17 May 2016

---



### About this release

The Information Services Division is releasing NHSScotland prescribing data in two formats today:

**Practice level prescribing Open Data:** Open data files enable in-depth independent analysis of NHSScotland prescribing data. Information is shown for each practice and by individual drug.

**Prescribing dashboards:** Interactive analytical dashboards with monthly summaries of prescription volumes and costs in NHS Boards. These enable at-a-glance interpretation of high-level trends using the latest techniques and technologies in data visualisation.

### Key Points

- The total number of items dispensed in February 2016 was 8.26 million, an increase of 4.3% compared to February 2015.
- The gross ingredient cost of items dispensed in February 2016 was £89.4 million, an increase of 12.0% compared to February 2015.
- The total Primary care drugs budget has consistently increased over the last year, as seen this February. A large portion of this is explained by a Hospital to Community Pharmacy shift in the dispensing of newer Hepatitis C drugs. Other factors, such as price adjustments for items with supply issues and increased uptake or newer therapeutic agents, also contribute to this increase.

### Background

Data is extracted from the Prescribing Information System. The dashboard, which replicates the summary statistics section of the annual Prescription Cost Analysis publication, shows information on items dispensed in Scotland, with data going from 2005 to the most recent available (currently February 2016). This publication of open data file will be the addition of February 2016 data in a separate file and shows details of items prescribed in Scotland. Both publications will continue monthly as the data become available. March 2016 data will be released in June 2016.

## Find out more

This release is classed as 'official experimental statistics' to denote their status as a work in progress.

[The Open Data files and Summary Statistics dashboards are available from the Prescribing pages of our website.](#)

## Contact

**James MacKerrow**

Principal Information Analyst

[j.mackerrow@nhs.net](mailto:j.mackerrow@nhs.net)

0131 275 6266

---

## ISD and 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. [Find out more about our statistics.](#)