

# Practice level Prescribing data

Data to 31 March 2016

Publication Date – 14 June 2016

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## 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 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 March 2016 was 8.9 million, an increase of 1.8% compared to March 2015.
- The cost of items dispensed in March 2016 was £97.8 million, an increase of 7.0% compared to March 2015.
- The total cost of primary care drugs has increased over the last year. A significant proportion of the observed increase is accounted by the transition from hospital supply routes to provision through community pharmacy. An example of this is the treatment of patients with Hepatitis C. Other factors, such as price adjustments for items with supply issues and the adoption of novel agents such as Direct Acting Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs) also contribute to the observed increase in costs.

## Background

Data are 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 prescribed in Scotland, with data going from 2005 to the most recent available (currently March 2016). This publication of open data file will be the addition of March 2016 data in a separate file and shows details of items prescribed in Scotland. Both publications will continue monthly as the data become available. April 2016 data will be released in July 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, along with guidance documents, are available from the [Prescribing pages of our website](#).

## Contact

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## 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](#).