

Practice level Prescribing data

Data to 30 April 2016

Publication Date – 19 July 2016

About this release

The Information Services Division is releasing NHSScotland prescribing data in two formats today - Practice level prescribing Open Data and a new Prescribing dashboard.

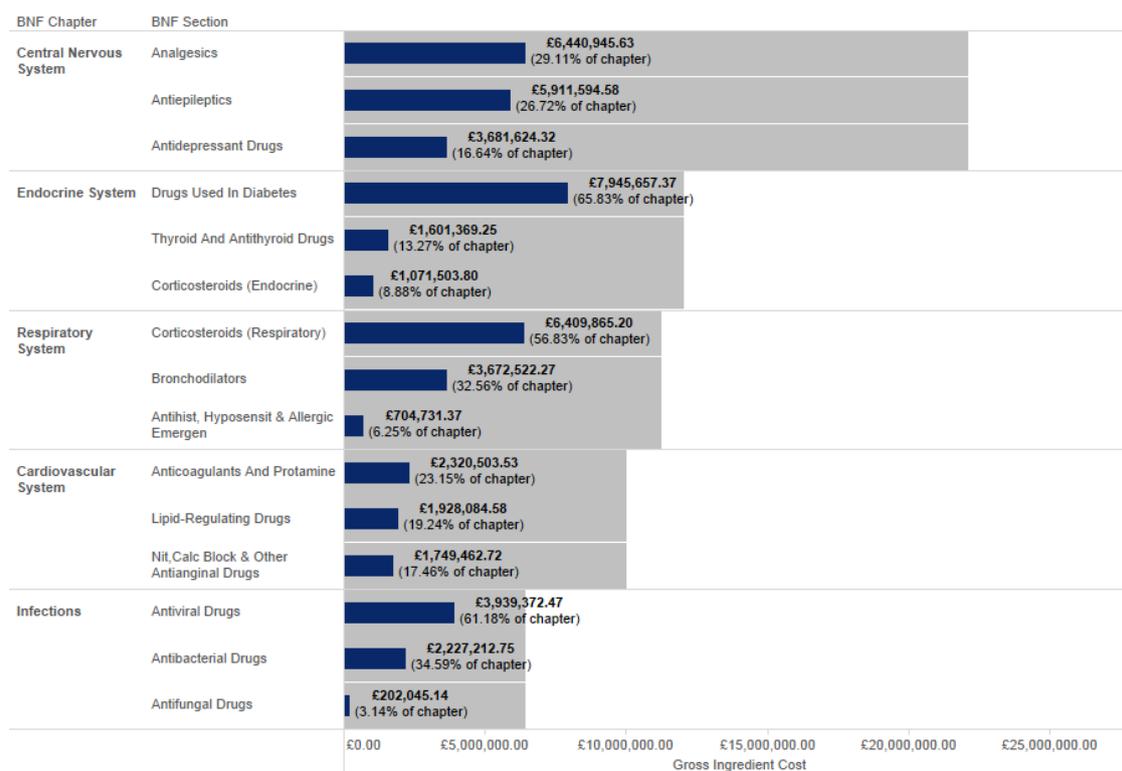
Main Points

- The total number of items dispensed in April 2016 was 8.7 million, an increase of 4.1% compared to April 2015.
- The cost of items dispensed in April 2016 was £97.3 million, an increase of 9.4% compared to April 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 and the adoption of novel agents such as Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs) also contribute to the observed increase in costs.
- The view on the next page, one of four in the new Prescribing dashboard, shows the highest-cost therapeutic areas in terms of prescriptions in the community.
 - *Drugs used in Diabetes* was the highest-cost BNF Section across Scotland in April 2016 (total cost of items dispensed was £7.9 million).
 - *Central Nervous System* represented the highest-cost BNF Chapter (total cost of items dispensed across Scotland was £22.1 million). *Analgesics* (for all severities of pain-relief) was the highest-cost BNF Section in this Chapter at £6.4 million.

Background

Open data files enable independent analysis of NHSScotland prescribing data. Information is shown for each practice and by individual drug.

What are the highest cost therapeutic areas in terms of prescriptions in the community?



In response to feedback from users (due for publication soon), we have produced a Prescribing dashboard to allow exploration of our Open Data file. Four interactive views are available today, each asking a different question of the file.

Data are extracted from the Prescribing Information System. This publication of open data file will be the addition of April 2016 data in a separate file and shows details of items prescribed in Scotland. Both publications will continue monthly as the data become available. May 2016 data will be released in August 2016.

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

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Find out more

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

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. [Further information about our statistics](#).