

# Practice level Prescribing data

Data to 31 May 2016

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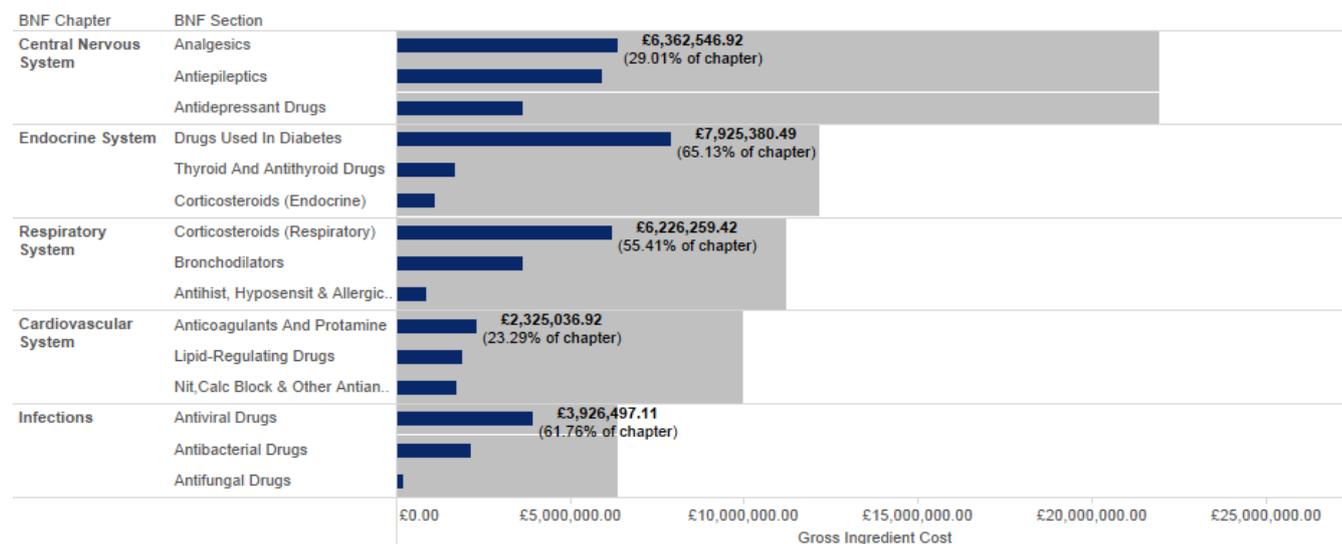
## About this release

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

## Main Points

- The total number of items dispensed, in Primary Care, in May 2016 was 8.7 million, an increase of 3.2% compared to May 2015. This is a continuation of a long standing trend.
- The cost of items dispensed, in Primary Care, in May 2016 was £96.8 million, an increase of 7.1% compared to May 2015. This is a continuation of a long standing trend.
- A large proportion of this increase is due to the shift from hospital to provision through community pharmacies. An example of this is the treatment of patients with Hepatitis C.
- The Prescribing dashboard shows the highest-cost therapeutic areas in terms of prescriptions in the community.
  - Drugs used to manage Diabetes was the highest-cost area of prescribing across Scotland in May 2016 (total cost of items dispensed was £7.9 million).
  - The second highest spend was on Analgesics, for all severities of pain-relief. (Total cost of items dispensed was £6.4 million).

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



## Background

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

This release is classed as 'experimental official statistics' to denote their status as under evaluation

## Contact

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## Find out more

Open data files enable independent analysis of NHSScotland prescribing data. Information is shown for each practice and by individual drug. In response to feedback from users we have produced a Prescribing dashboard to allow exploration of our Open Data file. Four interactive views are available:

- What are the highest-cost therapeutic areas for prescriptions in the community
- How do individual GP Practices contribute to overall prescribing by GP Practices
- Variation in Prescribing among GP practices
- Where are prescriptions being written

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

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