Prescribing & Medicines: Minor Ailments Service (MAS)

Year Ending 31 March 2017

Publication Date – 26 September 2017

About this release

This report from the Information Services Division provides information on the Minor Ailments Service. This allows community pharmacies to provide direct care to eligible individuals for common conditions which require little or no medical intervention. The report contains information on the number of registrations and treatments for the Minor Ailments Service during financial year 2016/17. It contains a monthly breakdown of the number of patients registered for the service and provides information on the number of items supplied. An analysis of deprivation is undertaken for registered patients under the age of 16; other categories of patients who are eligible for the Minor Ailments Service would, by their nature, introduce bias in deprivation.

Main points

- At 31 March 2017, 16.4% of the population of Scotland (around 884,000 people) were registered for the Minor Ailments Service. All but one community pharmacy in Scotland had patients registered for the service. Registrations decreased by 6.6% (from around 947,000 people) between March 2015/16 and March 2016/17.
- Between 2007/8 and 2015/16 the number of items supplied under the Minor Ailments Service increased each year. However, in 2016/17 there has been a decrease, with 5.6% fewer items supplied compared to 2015/16, with a corresponding decrease in cost.
- The service supplied over 2 million items in 2016/17 with a total cost of £4.9 million. This accounted for 2.0% of all items supplied by community pharmacies in Scotland.
- The most common drug supplied was paracetamol, which accounted for 20.7% of items.
- For patients aged under 16 registered for the Minor Ailments Service in 2016/17, those who lived in the most deprived Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile received the greatest number of items per 1,000 Minor Ailments Service registrations (2,927 items) while those who lived in the least deprived quintile received the least (2,318 items).
Background

The Minor Ailments Service supports the provision of direct pharmaceutical care within NHSScotland. It allows eligible people to register with a community pharmacy for the consultation and treatment of common conditions. The pharmacist then advises, treats or refers the person (or provides a combination of these actions) according to their needs.

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Find out more

ISD holds several decades of information on medicines prescribed within NHSScotland. We currently have data on over one billion prescriptions. All of the information we publish on prescribing is available on our website at: http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Prescribing-and-medicines/

Further information can be found in the Minor Aliments Service Report for 2016/17.

All the data contained in this report is also available as downloadable data tables.

To find out who is eligible for the Minor Ailments Service - visit the Community Pharmacy 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. Find out more about our statistics.