

Safer Use of Medicines



1 in 5 adults in Scotland are dispensed 5 or more medicines

59% of patients over 70 years old are dispensed 5 or more medicines

Each year in primary care



101 million

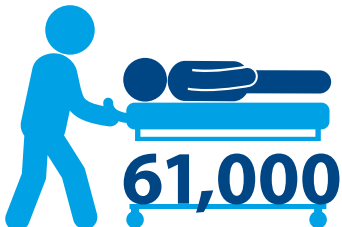
prescription items are issued in primary care

4 million prescribing errors

40,000 to 3.4 million dispensing errors

5 classes of medicines account for most admissions

- NSAIDs
- Antiplatelets
- Anticoagulants
- Diuretics
- Anti-hypertensives



61,000

non-elective hospital admissions are due to medicines

Each year in acute care



435,000 inpatient prescriptions

items are prescribed in an average 500 bed acute hospital

32,500 prescribing errors with up to 200 causing patient harm

35 to 85 dispensing errors

2 million

doses of medicines administered in an average 500 bed acute hospital

189,000 administration errors



15,000 patients admitted to all acute hospitals experience an adverse event due to medicines



up to 280 preventable deaths across all acute hospitals are due to medicines

Safer Use of Medicines in NHSScotland

Current Challenges. Each year....	Opportunities to Drive Improvement Nationally
4 million prescribing errors in primary care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse Events Framework • Area Drug and Therapeutics Collaborative • Mortality Reviews • National Therapeutic Indicators in primary care • NHS Education for Scotland staff development modules for medicines • Polypharmacy Guidance, Scottish Government (Sick Day Rule Cards) • Prescription for Excellence • Quality of Care Reviews • Roll-out of Hospital Electronic Prescribing and Medicines Administration System (HEPMA) – eHealth • Scottish Patient Safety Programme (SPSP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High risk medicine bundles - Medication reconciliation (links between the interface – e.g. Emergency Care Summary) • Think, Check, Act (Diabetes - insulin safety)
40,000 to 3.4 million dispensing errors in community pharmacy each year	
32,500 prescribing errors in an average 500 bed acute hospital	
35 – 85 dispensing errors in an average 500 bed acute hospital	
189,000 medicines administration errors in an average 500 bed acute hospital	
15,000 patients admitted to all acute hospitals experience an adverse event due to medicines	
Up to 280 preventable inpatient deaths across all acute hospitals due to medicines	
61,000 non-elective admissions are due to medicines	

Safer Use of Medicines in NHSScotland

Current Challenges. Each year....	Opportunities to Drive Improvement Locally
4 million prescribing errors in primary care	
40,000 to 3.4 million dispensing errors in community pharmacy each year	
32,500 prescribing errors in an average 500 bed acute hospital	
35 – 85 dispensing errors in an average 500 bed acute hospital	
189,000 medicines administration errors in an average 500 bed acute hospital	
15,000 patients admitted to all acute hospitals experience an adverse event due to medicines	
Up to 280 preventable inpatient deaths across all acute hospitals due to medicines	
61,000 non-elective admissions are due to medicines	

Primary Care

- 101 million prescription items per year¹
 - 4 million prescription errors (4.1%)²
 - 40,000 to 3.4 million dispensing errors (0.04% to 3.32%)³

Acute Care

- 435,000 inpatient prescription items each year in an average 500 bed acute hospital⁴
 - 32,500 prescription errors (7.5%), up to 200 of these errors causing patient harm (no more than 1% of these causing harm)⁵
 - 35 to 85 dispensing errors (0.008% to 0.02%)³
- 2.2 million doses of medicines administered each year in an average 500 bed acute hospital⁴
 - 189,000 administration errors (8.6%)⁶
- 15,000 patients admitted to acute hospitals experience adverse events due to medicines (ranging from no/minor harm to death).^{7,8}
- Up to 280 preventable deaths across all acute hospitals are due to medicines.^{9,10}
- 61,000 (11.2%) of non-elective admissions are due to medicines.^{7,11}
 - 5 classes of medicines account for most admissions: NSAIDs, Antiplatelets, Anticoagulants, Diuretics, Anti-hypertensives¹²

Polypharmacy

- 1 in 5 adults in Scotland are prescribed five or more medicines.¹³
- 59% of patients over 70 years of age take five or more medicines.¹⁴

About this resource

This infographic has been developed as a prompt intended for healthcare professionals when discussing the safer use of medicines in Scotland, and provides an opportunity to recognise national initiatives that aim to address key issues as well as note any local activities that are in place. The infographic is based on a similar resource developed in NHS England (March 2015)

http://www.improvementacademy.org/documents/Projects/medicines_safety/Medication%20safety%20in%20the%20NHS%20infographic%20faults%20and%20remedies%20NHSE%20March%202015.pdf

Figures in the infographic are based on data from published studies and reports, as well as data provided from key Scottish organisations. In some cases final figures have been extrapolated from smaller published studies. Rounding of some figures has also been applied. A list of references is provided.

References

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