



ANGUS HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD – 11 DECEMBER 2019
PRESCRIBING MANAGEMENT UPDATE
REPORT BY VICKY IRONS, CHIEF OFFICER

ABSTRACT

This report provides an update to the Integration Joint Board (IJB) on prescribing management in Angus.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:-

- (i) Note the content of the paper and the ongoing measures being taken to ensure efficient and effective prescribing within Angus.
- (ii) Request a further update to be provided to the Integration Joint Board in June 2020.
- (iii) Endorse the use of prescribing savings to provide sustainable investment in evidence-based models of care including social prescribing.

2. BACKGROUND

Historically FHS (Family Health Service) Prescribing has presented a financial challenge within Angus. The drivers behind prescribing spend are multifactorial and complex with recent chronic supply issues playing a large part in variations in spend.

By developing an improved understanding of the reasons for our prescribing position in conjunction with a multidisciplinary approach with strong clinical leadership and buy in, a steady and sustainable improvement is emerging.

3. CURRENT POSITION

Work continues in line with the prescribing management plan (Appendix One), which was approved by the IJB in February 2019.

Progress of note since our last report:

1. **Cost per waited patient** The Angus cost per waited patient continues to fall. Previous spend within Angus was running c8-10% above the national average. The most recent data shows that this is now running c6-9% above the national average. This has been achieved by implementing both a regional prescribing work plan in addition to a targeted local approach that has focussed on clinical engagement with individual practices supporting realistic medicine and alternatives to prescribing where that is clinically appropriate.
2. **Transforming Tayside** Angus prescribing leads are currently contributing to the Transforming Tayside programme, which aims to support the redesign of services across

Tayside, including prescribing. A draft prescribing strategy is in development which will continue to support the transformation in prescribing across Tayside.

The draft strategy was agreed by The NHS Tayside Prescribing Management Group and shared with the Patient and Public Forum for Medicines (PPFM) in June for consideration and feedback from patient representatives with feedback incorporated. It is now undergoing further consultation to increase engagement within secondary care with plans to approve the final version in March 2020. There are then plans to incorporate design input from NHS Tayside Communications department in preparation for a Tayside wide launch. This regionally driven strategy will support the Angus work plan as it develops in the coming year. Four key high level objectives are proposed in the draft strategy:

1. Facilitate best practice, with safe, high quality prescribing choices
2. Enable shared decision making with an informed, empowered patient
3. Nurture innovation and enable change
4. Ensure governance, systems and processes support quality prescribing

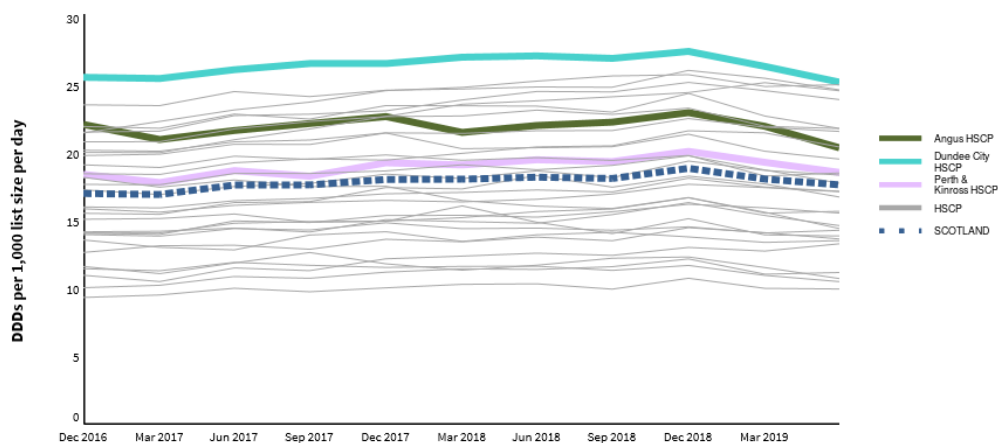
While awaiting the formal launch of the strategy, work is continuing to agree leadership for each of the 4 strands, develop a proposed action plan and continue with relevant action, building on progress already being made.

Two priority areas identified for focused investment through the Transforming Tayside programme are chronic pain service improvement and the prescribing of non-medicines.

3. **Chronic Pain** Plans are in place to support improved options for people experiencing pain with a proposal to redirect resources currently committed to medications through reduced reliance on those medicines. There are wide ranging projects across the whole system to support regular review of patients being prescribed medicines for chronic pain and ensure access to the best evidence based treatment for patients within communities.

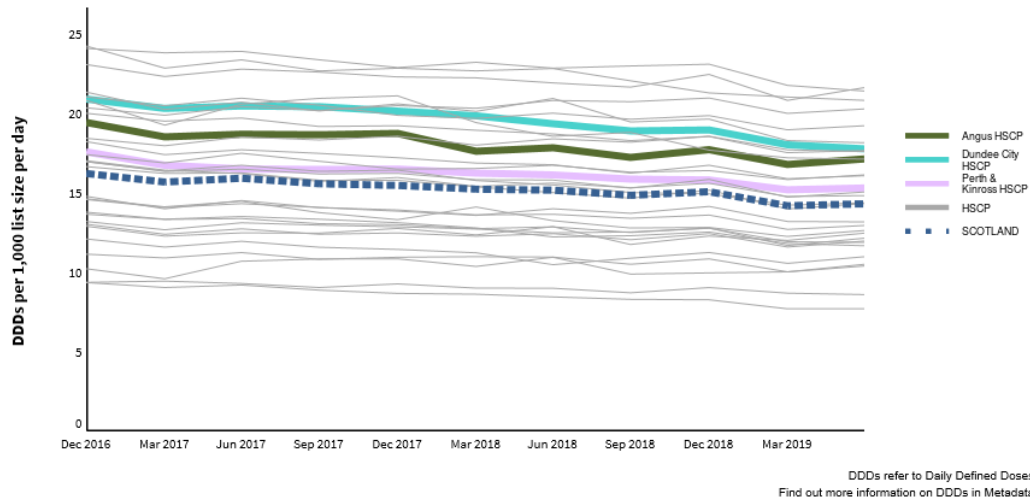
The Tayside Chronic Pain Service Improvement Group, chaired by Angus HSCP AMD Dr Alison Clement, has recently led the introduction of a Tayside pathway for both neuropathic and non-neuropathic pain throughout Tayside. There is also an evidence-based pathway for non-pharmacological approaches to pain which is community facing which is about to be introduced across Tayside. Tayside has a high proportion of gabapentinoids and opiates prescribed compared to the national average.

Gabapentanoids: pregabalin and gabapentin DDDs per 1,000 list size per day



DDDs refer to Daily Defined Doses.
Find out more information on DDDs in Metadata.

Opioid analgesics: strong opioids (including tramadol preparations) DDDs per 1,000 list size per day



Through a variety of initiatives including GP practice reviews of patients alongside increased promotion and availability of non-pharmacological options for pain management, it is planned that there will be a reduction in the prescribing of gabapentinoids and opiates towards the Scottish Average. While much of this work is currently funded by short-term income streams such as locality improvement group funding, the intention is to redirect resources currently committed to medications towards providing sustainable investment in alternative evidence based models of care including social prescribing.

4. **PONMAG (Prescribing of Non-Medicines Advisory Group)** The Tayside Prescribing of Non-Medicines Advisory Group, chaired by Angus GP Prescribing Lead Dr Scott Jamieson, is currently working through an extensive work plan with the aim of seeking assurance of spend on non-medicines across the whole system. Current highlights are the piloting of stoma product review piloting, with plans for full scale roll out early next year. The baby milk pathway has been developed with piloting of its introduction underway. Diabetes consumables review is imminently commencing. Continence and wound care reformation will now be accelerated with the successful appointment to a nursing post dedicated to support work in this area within Tayside.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As part of Angus IJB's annual Internal Audit Plan an Internal Audit of Prescribing Management has recently been completed and will be formally submitted to the IJB's Audit Committee in December. The overall rating suggested "Moderate Assurance" could be provided indicating that an "Adequate framework of key controls (existed) with minor weaknesses present". The audit highlighted 3 key actions as follows:

- 1) Future prescribing plans be more clearly set out with SMART objectives showing what is intended to be done and the anticipated/ targeted result of such larger/ discrete interventions. Going forward, the prescribing saving plan should be more clearly based on relevant and reliable data.
- 2) While the Angus Prescribing Management Group (APMG) and APMG+ are operating well, as evidenced by the improvement in the prescribing position, to enhance the overall governance arrangements and management of prescribing interventions, action notes of the APMG and APMG+ should be formalised to ensure actions are recorded and monitored.
- 3) The GP Prescribing risk BAF is reviewed and updated to take account of the results of this report, to note additional controls in place, to review and improve assurances provided and ensure all relevant staff groups engage with the risk.

Management responses have now been agreed and the IJB is working towards implementing. Progress will be reported back through the IJB's Audit Committee.

The IJB's regular Finance Reports provide an update regarding the financial position for Prescribing. For 2019/20 it is currently estimated there will be an overspend on core drug budgets of c£600k in 2019/20 but this is after allowing for a one-off over accrual in March 2019 – giving an underlying overspend of c£800k. On top of that there are underspends in other prescribing related budgets of c£200k but these are generally assumed to be non-recurring due to Community Pharmacy contract issues.

As noted in the previous report there was a lack of clarity regarding the IJB's financial planning framework for Prescribing for 2019/20. The IJB is working with NHS Tayside and the Prescribing Management Group to ensure that for 2020/21 and beyond there will be increased local clarity regarding the financial planning framework for Prescribing. Angus IJB will also imminently be entering more detailed budget discussion with NHS Tayside regarding various budgets including prescribing.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The strategic risks associated with prescribing are detailed within the Angus IJB Strategic Risk Register.

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List of Appendices: Appendix One Angus HSPC Prescribing Management Plan: Active Interventions 2019/20