



Hospital alcohol cases jump by 10% in a year

The number of patients admitted to A&E as a result of alcohol abuse has risen by more than 10 pc in a year. Nearly **1.2m** were brought in last year with conditions including liver disease, alcohol poisoning or for injuries sustained when drunk. Figures from the NHS Information Centre show that the numbers of these admissions have more than **doubled** since 2002 when they were first recorded. Additionally, the NHS spends **£2.5m** a year on drugs to treat alcoholics. Some **167,800 prescriptions** were handed out last year for medicines which are used to help alcoholics abstain by making them sick when they drink. Emily Robinson, of the charity Alcohol Research, said: 'As a country we face a huge NHS bill because of health problems caused by alcohol. That means we need the Government to take action across a whole range of policy areas such as advertising, pricing, availability and investing in treatment to help bring the number going to hospital because of alcohol down.'