

## 250% rise in prescription drugs use

THERE has been a huge rise in the number of people taking prescribed medication in the past 15 years.

Research by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland found a 250% increase in the prevalence of polypharmacy – the use of five or more drugs by a single patient.

They also found a tenfold rise in the number of people taking 10 or more medicines from 1997 to 2012.

The biggest increase was in statins for cholesterol, anti-platelet drugs such as aspirin and proton pump inhibitors for stomach acid.

Author Frank Moriarty said: “The more medicines a person is prescribed the higher the chance of drug interactions.”

