

Publication Report



NHSScotland Payments to General Practice

Financial Year 2013/14

Publication date – 26 May 2015

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Introduction

NHSScotland Payments to General Practice (GP) are published here for the first time. The information is provided in line with the agreed 2014-15 General Medical Services (GMS) contract; more information about the contract can be found on [the British Medical Association](#) and [Scottish Government](#) websites, the latter giving information on the latest GP contracting arrangements in Scotland. A broad suite of information relating to General Practice in Scotland can be found on the website of [the Information Services Division](#) of National Services Scotland.

The data presented here are extracted from the National Services Scotland's Practitioner Services GP Payments system. This system provides NHS payments to providers of primary medical services which are, in the main, GP practices. The majority of these practices provide primary medical services under the national GMS contract. This publication provides a factual reporting of actual payments, rather than a comparative analysis between practices. It is important to note that only the 'Global Sum' category is consistently calculated across all practices. The varying contractual terms and local NHS Board arrangements determine the precise payments due to each practice.

In the accompanying [data table](#) the payments are broken down by a) individual provider of general practice services and b) main payment category.

The intention is that this will become an annual publication with 2014-15 data being published in autumn 2015. Historical trends in NHSScotland Payments to General Practice will become available as the annual series develops.

Definitions

In addition to the below, you might find this [glossary](#) of GP terms useful; it is part of the [ISD General Practice](#) website.

What the payments are for and how they are calculated

The basis and calculation of payments to GMS providers of primary medical services are largely set out in the [GMS Statement of Financial Entitlements](#).

Global Sum - Global Sum Payments are a contribution towards the contractor's costs in delivering essential and additional services, including its staff costs. The total Global Sum amount for Scotland is distributed amongst practices on a weighted capitation basis using the Scottish Allocation Formula. This formula allocates resources to GP practices on the basis of the practice workload and needs of their patients, taking into consideration the relative costs of service delivery.

Correction Factor – a payment adjustment linked to the minimum practice income guarantee made as part of the [2004 contract](#).

Directed Enhanced Services (DES) - Services that Health Boards *must* ensure are provided for patients within their area. The DESs can include services such as flu immunisations, childhood immunisations and minor surgery. Health Boards are legally

obliged to commission all DESs. Individual practices, however, do not have to agree to undertake this work.

National Enhanced Services (NES) – Services which Health Boards *may* seek to commission within their area, include anti-coagulant monitoring, intra partum care, minor injuries, IUCD fitting, drug and alcohol misuse.

Local Enhanced Services (LES) – Services which are commissioned by Health Boards and are *locally negotiated*. They are intended to be services provided in response to specific local needs or innovations that are being piloted, such as methadone administration as part of drugs misuse services.

QOF Payments – Payments to practices under the Quality and Outcomes Framework, made up of 2012-13 balancing payment (achievements) and 2013-14 aspiration payments. Figures shown here do not correspond with 2013-14 Quality and Outcome Framework Achievement figures published on the [ISD website](#), which is full year achievement.

Premises – payments to practices that provide their own premises.

Seniority - payments to a contractor in respect of individual GPs to reward experience, based on years of Reckonable Service.

Additional Services Opt Outs – A reduction in Global Sum where the practice does not provide additional services, such as Out of Hours services and Child Health Surveillance.

17C - Balance of payments to 17C practices.

2C – Balance of the costs to the NHS Boards of providing services through 2C practices.

Total – the total of the above, which is the total of payments for Primary Medical Services to each contractor, before deductions for pension contributions and levy payments.

Dispensing Doctors (not included in Total) – this payment is for reimbursement of drugs and fees paid to practices that are required to provide dispensing services for their patients. It is included here to facilitate reconciliation of total payments to those practices.

General Practice Types

With effect from 1st April 2004, [The Primary Medical Services \(Scotland\) Act 2004](#) amended The National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 by placing a duty on NHS Boards to provide or secure 'primary medical services' for their populations. NHS Boards can do so by providing services directly (this is known as 'direct provision' - Section 2C of the 1978 Act) or by making arrangements (by contract or agreement) with a range of 'providers' through:

GMS (General Medical Services - Section 17J of the 1978 Act) contracts - nationally negotiated with some local flexibility for GPs to 'opt out' of certain services or 'opt in' to the provision of other services.

Section **17C** (formerly known as 'Personal Medical Services' or PMS) agreements - locally negotiated agreements which are more flexible in accordance with local circumstances. Whilst the majority of 17C practices are paid through the Practitioner Services payment system, the payments are not all broken down by the various GMS categories, and can vary by NHS Board in the way they are broken down. For this publication we have included the Global Sum amount for all practices including those that do not record this in the payment system at the practice level, as provided by the NHS Board.

'**Health Board Primary Medical Services**' contracts (Section **2C** of the 1978 Act) - the NHS Board can, in certain circumstances, make arrangements with either a NHS organisation or a non-NHS organisation for the provision of NHS services. Often, these Section 2C practices are run by the Boards themselves and only a total figure for payments is available. However, as the Global Sum is calculated for all practices we have included the Global Sum figure for these practices.

The majority (approximately 84%) of General Practices in Scotland have a GMS contract. The largest proportion of the remainder is made up of Section 17C (13%) Schemes, with a smaller number of services provided under Section 2C (3%).

Results

The sum of NHSScotland payments made in 2013-14 was £739.7 million to 995 General Practice service providers of which:

- £618.2 million was to 829 providers with a GMS contract
- £102.2 million was to 120 providers with a 17C contract
- £19.3 million was to 46 providers with a 2C contract or where the NHS Board is directly responsible for providing services

In addition, £23.7 million was paid to 105 General Practices for Dispensing services.

Detailed data can be found in Excel format, in [NHSScotland Payments to General Practice, 2013-14](#)

Data source

Data are extracted from National Services Scotland's Practitioner Services GP Payment system, an operational system for calculating the monthly payments to each practice. The data are presented for all organisations that have received a payment through the National Services Scotland's Practitioner Services GP Payment System, and those that have been paid directly by the NHS Boards. Data relevant to 'non-payment practices' have been provided by the relevant Boards.

The data are published without accruals or other adjustments, for example an adjustment made for amounts earned in the current year and paid for in the following financial year.

GP practices will have had regular statements during the year; the figures presented here are the total of 12 monthly statements from April 2013 to March 2014. Publishing the data in this form should allow practices to recognise and validate the data without need to involve support from professionals such as their accountants, which may incur financial or time burden.

GP practices and other providers of general practice services included within this report should use their Practitioner Services Regional Office contact for any queries on the figures in the first instance.

Coherence and Comparability

The information presented here is from data directly extracted from Practitioner Services GP Payment system, and has not undergone any amendments (e.g. for accruals). As such, these figures may not be directly comparable with other published GP finance statistics. They are drawn from the main datasets which provide the basis for the figures which feed into [the Investment in General Practice Report](#).

The information presented here is comparable to the analogous publication by NHS England ([NHS Payments to General Practice, England, 2013-14](#)), in that the payment categories are calculated in a similar manner.

Out of Hours services payments are included only for the small number of practices actually providing these services. Out of Hours services are also provided by a number of different health organisations not paid directly through the Practitioner Services GP payments system. The [Investment in General Practice Report](#) includes payments to all organisations providing these services.

The major categories of investment within the [Investment in General Practice Report](#) are included in this publication. Some categories have been combined to improve analysis. As noted above, the QOF payments included here are the aggregate of actual payments made in the year.

In the Investment in General Practice Report, the QOF amounts are the achievement for the financial year, which are comparable to information [published by ISD](#) on QOF points and payments.

ISD also publishes [detailed information](#) on

- Prevalence data for a range of conditions recorded in QOF registers
- Information on QOF exception reporting, i.e. numbers of patients excluded for reasons such as a treatment not being clinically appropriate, or the patient choosing not to attend review appointments.

Note that the data in this report may exclude some low level detail for individual elements where there are risks to patient confidentiality or possible identification of individual patients.

List of Tables

Table No.	Name	Time period	File & size
1	NHSScotland Payments to General Practice, 2013-14	Financial Year 2013-2014	Excel (xlsx) [201kb]

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Further Information

Further information can be found on the [ISD website](#)

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Appendix

A1 – Publication Metadata (including revisions details)

Metadata Indicator	Description
Publication title	NHSScotland Payments to General Practice, 2013-14
Description	Payments to General Practices in NHSScotland, at Practice level, for the financial year 2013-2014.
Theme	Health and Social Care
Topic	General Practice Payments Information
Format	Excel workbook
Data source(s)	GMS practices: NSS Practitioner Services General Practice Payment System. Non-payment 17C and 2C practices: NHS Boards Calculations as per Statement of Financial Entitlements
Date that data are acquired	April/May 2015
Release date	26 May 2015
Frequency	One-off; Annual publication to begin in autumn 2015
Timeframe of data and timeliness	Financial Year 2013-2014, produced with a delay of approximately one year. Autumn 2015 publication will cover 2014-2015, and future publications will be approximately 6 months after end of the index financial year.
Continuity of data	This is the first publication, containing a single financial year.
Revisions statement	Not applicable to this publication
Concepts and definitions	This document and the Excel workbook contain notes that explain the types of payments included.
Relevance and key uses of the statistics	These data promote transparency of Scotland's expenditure in General Practice
Accuracy	Information is signed off by the Associate Director, Contractor Finance, Practitioner Services
Completeness	Includes all General Practices in Scotland that receive payments from the NHS.
Comparability	The unadjusted data are broadly comparable to unadjusted data published by NHS England.
Accessibility	It is the policy of ISD Scotland to make its web sites and products accessible according to published guidelines .
Coherence and clarity	Information is presented at General Practice level. Geographical hierarchies are available using filters within the Excel spreadsheet. The data are available in Excel to give greatest possible availability for re-use of the data by users.

Value type and unit of measurement	Numeric values on expenditure are presented to the nearest pound Sterling.
Disclosure	The ISD protocol on Statistical Disclosure Protocol is followed.
Official Statistics designation	Official Statistics
UK Statistics Authority Assessment	Not assessed
Last published	This is the first publication
Next published	Autumn 2015
Date of first publication	26 May 2015
Help email	Alasdair.pinkerton@nhs.net , sallyrichards2@nhs.net susan.jensen@nhs.net nss.ISDGeneralPractice@nhs.net
Date form completed	18 May 2015

A2 – Early Access details (including Pre-Release Access)

Pre-Release Access

Under terms of the "Pre-Release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008", ISD are obliged to publish information on those receiving Pre-Release Access ("Pre-Release Access" refers to statistics in their final form prior to publication). The standard maximum Pre-Release Access is five working days. Shown below are details of those receiving standard Pre-Release Access.

Standard Pre-Release Access:

Scottish Government Directorate of Health and Social Care
NHS Board Chief Executives
NHS Board Communication leads

Early Access for Quality Assurance

These statistics will also have been made available to those who needed access to help quality assure the publication:

Scottish Government

Primary Care Directorate:

Lynda Nicholson
Duncan Miller

Analytical Services Division:

Tom Russon
Chris Dodds
Paudric Osborne

Scottish General Practitioners

Committee, British Medical Association

Dr Alan McDevitt
Dr Andrew Buist
Dr Colette Maule
David Prince
Carrie Young

NHS Family Health Services Finance Executive

A3 – ISD and Official Statistics

About ISD

Scotland has some of the best health service data in the world combining high quality, consistency, national coverage and the ability to link data to allow patient based analysis and follow up.

Information Services Division (ISD) is a business operating unit of NHS National Services Scotland and has been in existence for over 40 years. We are an essential support service to NHSScotland and the Scottish Government and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

Purpose: To deliver effective national and specialist intelligence services to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Scotland.

Mission: Better Information, Better Decisions, Better Health

Vision: To be a valued partner in improving health and wellbeing in Scotland by providing a world class intelligence service.

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. The Code of Practice is produced and monitored by the UK Statistics Authority which is independent of Government. Under the Code of Practice, the format, content and timing of statistics publications are the responsibility of professional staff working within ISD.

ISD's statistical publications are currently classified as one of the following:

- National Statistics (ie assessed by the UK Statistics Authority as complying with the Code of Practice)
- National Statistics (ie legacy, still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- Official Statistics (ie still to be assessed by the UK Statistics Authority)
- other (not Official Statistics)

Further information on ISD's statistics, including compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, and on the UK Statistics Authority, is available on the [ISD website](#).