

Publication Summary



Prescribing & Medicines: Reimbursement and remuneration paid to dispensing contractors

Calendar and financial years 2007-2012

Publication date – 26 March 2013



About this Release

Dispensing contractors, i.e. community pharmacists, dispensing doctors and appliance suppliers, are contracted by NHS Scotland to provide services to the population of Scotland. To ensure drugs are available for dispensing when a patient arrives with a prescription, dispensing contractors purchase drugs in advance. Therefore, dispensing contractors receive two distinct types of payment; remuneration for the services they provide and reimbursement for the drugs they dispense. Information is shown by calendar and financial year up to December 2012.

Key Points

- The gross total payments to Scottish dispensing contractors decreased from £1,178 million in 2011 to £1,126 million in 2012.
- The net ingredient cost (NIC) paid to dispensing contractors for drug reimbursement has decreased, from £972 million in 2011 to £919 million in 2012. However, the cost for remuneration of services shows an increase of £1.8 million (0.9%) from £205.7 million in 2011 to £207.5 million in 2012.
- The gross ingredient cost (GIC) paid to dispensing contractors in 2012 in respect of dispensing was £965.7 million. This is a decrease of £46.8 million (4.6%) when compared to 2011.
- The number of prescription items for 2012 was 96.6 million. This is an increase of 2.8 million (3.0%) compared to 2011. The number of prescription items for 2011 was 93.8 million. This was an increase of 2.8 million (3.1%) compared to 2010.

Background

Payments are derived from information gathered by [Practitioner Services Division](#) (PSD), after the pricing of prescriptions has taken place. Payments to dispensing contractors are

made by PSD on behalf of the NHS Boards. Monthly schedules are made available on a quarterly basis and a year-end summary is provided.

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Further Information

Further information can be found in the [Full Publication Report](#) or on the [ISD website](#).

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