

# Publication Summary



## Prescribing & Medicines: Reimbursement and remuneration paid to dispensing contractors

Calendar and financial years 2007-2013

Publication date – 25 June 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 March 2013

### Key Points

- The gross total payments to Scottish dispensing contractors decreased from £1,177 million in 2011/12 to £1,118 million in 2012/13.
- The net ingredient cost (NIC) paid to dispensing contractors for drug reimbursement has decreased, from £974 million in 2011/12 to £910 million in 2012/13. However, the cost for remuneration of services shows an increase of £5.0 million (2.5%) from £202.9 million in 2011/12 to £207.9 million in 2012/13.
- The gross ingredient cost (GIC) paid to dispensing contractors in 2012/13 in respect of dispensing was £956.1 million. This is a decrease of £58.7 million (5.8%) when compared to 2011/12.
- The number of prescription items for 2012/13 was 97.0 million. This is an increase of 2.2 million (2.3%) compared to 2011/12. The number of prescription items for 2011/12 was 94.9 million. This was an increase of 3.5 million (3.8%) compared to 2010/11.

### 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.

### Contact

#### Jack Vize

Senior Information Analyst

[j.vize@nhs.net](mailto:j.vize@nhs.net)

0131 275 7153

#### Catriona Young

Senior Information Analyst

[Catriona.young@nhs.net](mailto:Catriona.young@nhs.net)

0131 275 6599

### Further Information

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

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