

# Publication Summary



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

Calendar and financial years 2007-2013

Publication date – 24 September 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 June 2013

### Key Points

- The gross total payments to Scottish dispensing contractors increased from £281.5 million in quarter 1 of 2012/13 to £283.3 million in quarter 1 of 2013/14.
- The net ingredient cost (NIC) paid to dispensing contractors for drug reimbursement has increased from £229.6 million in quarter 1 of 2012/13 to £231.3 million in quarter 1 of 2013/14. The cost of remuneration of services also showed a slight increase of £0.2 million (0.4%) from £51.8 million in the first quarter of 2012/13 to £52.0 million in the first quarter of 2013/14.
- The gross ingredient cost (GIC) paid to dispensing contractors in quarter 1 of 2013/14, in respect of dispensing was £242.3 million. This is a slight increase of £0.9 million (0.4%) compared to the same quarter in 2012/13.
- The number of prescription items in quarter 1 of 2013/14 was 24.6 million. This is an increase of 0.6 million items (2.5%) compared to quarter 1 of 2012/13. The number of prescription items for quarter 1 of 2012/13 was 24.0 million. This was an increase of 0.5 million (2.3%) compared to quarter 1 of 2011/12.

## 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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