

# Publication Summary



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

Calendar and financial years 2007 - 2013

Publication date – 17 December 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 September 2013

### Key Points

- The gross total payments to Scottish dispensing contractors increased from £558.4 million in the first 6 months of 2012/13 to £565.1 million in the first 6 months of 2013/14.
- The net ingredient cost (NIC) paid to dispensing contractors for drug reimbursement has increased from £454.6 million in the first 6 months of 2012/13 to £462.4 million in the same period in 2013/14. The cost of remuneration of services showed a slight fall from £103.8 million in the first 6 months of 2012/13 to £102.7 million in the same period in 2013/14.
- The gross ingredient cost (GIC) paid to dispensing contractors in the first 6 months of 2013/14, in respect of dispensing, was £483.2 million. This is an increase of £5.3 million (1.1%) compared to the same period in 2012/13.
- The number of prescription items dispensed in the first 6 months of 2013/14 was 49.2 million. This is an increase of 1.0 million items (2.0%) compared to the same time period in 2012/13. The number of prescription items for the first 6 months of 2012/13 was 48.2 million. This was an increase of 1.1 million (2.3%) compared to the same period in 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 data are published on a quarterly basis by ISD 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](#)

### 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 Health Department and others, responsive to the needs of NHSScotland as the delivery of health and social care evolves.

### 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.

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](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/) [www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/](http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/About-Our-Statistics/)