

# Publication Summary



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

Financial year 2013

Publication date – 24 June 2014



### About this Release

Community pharmacists, dispensing doctors and appliance suppliers are contracted by NHSScotland to provide dispensing services to the population of Scotland. These 'dispensing contractors' must ensure that they have medicines, dressings and appliances available to dispense to someone arriving with a prescription. To do this, they purchase these products in advance. Dispensing contractors are paid in two different ways: for the services they provide and for the products they dispense. This publication reports on the payments they receive.

### Key points

- Over the last ten years the data show a trend of increasing cost and number of items dispensed in Scotland. As the number of items dispensed has increased at a greater rate than the gross ingredient cost, the average cost per item is decreasing overall.
- The gross total payments to Scottish dispensing contractors increased by £26.6million (2.4%) between 2012/13 and 2013/14.
- The number of prescription items dispensed in 2013/14 was 98.8 million, an increase of 1.8 million items (1.8%) compared to 2012/13.
- The gross ingredient cost (GIC) in 2013/14 was £977.4 million. This is an increase of £21.4 million (2.2%) compared to 2012/13. The GIC is the cost of drugs and appliances reimbursed before the deduction of any dispenser discount.
- The net ingredient cost (NIC) paid has increased from £910.2 million in 2012/13 to £937.8 million in 2013/14, an increase of £27.6 million (3.0%). The NIC is the cost of drugs and appliances reimbursed after deduction of any dispenser discount.
- The cost for remuneration of services has decreased by £0.96 million (0.5%) from £207.9 million in 2012/13 to £207.0 million in 2013/14.

## Background

Payments are derived from information gathered by [Practitioner Services](#), within the Practitioner and Counter Fraud Service, after the pricing of prescriptions has taken place. Payments to dispensing contractors are made by PSD on behalf of NHS Boards. Monthly data are published on a quarterly basis by ISD and a year-end summary is provided.

## Contact

### Paula McClements

Senior Statistician

[paula.mcclements@nhs.net](mailto:paula.mcclements@nhs.net)

0131 275 7666

### 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](#)

### 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/)