

Publication Summary



Prescribing & Medicines: Reimbursement and remuneration paid to dispensing contractors

Quarter 3 of Financial Year 2014/15

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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 (remuneration) and for the products they dispense (reimbursement). This publication reports on the payments they receive.

Key points

Overall Cost

- The gross total payments to Scottish dispensing contractors increased by 3.5% (£30.5 million) from the April to December of 2014/15 compared to the same first nine months of 2013/14.

Services Provided

- The cost for remuneration of services has decreased by £0.4 million (0.2%) from £155.9 million in the first nine months of 2013/14 to £155.5 million in the same period in 2014/15. This is expected to balance out to negligible over the remainder of the financial year.

Products Dispensed

- The number of prescription items dispensed in the first nine months of 2014/15 was 76.3 million, an increase of 1.7 million items (2.3%) compared to the same time period in 2013/14. The gross ingredient cost also increased, although at a slightly higher rate (3.4%). Therefore the cost per item has remained fairly stable, increasing slightly from £9.90 per item to £10.01.
- The net ingredient cost (NIC) paid increased from £708.4 million in the first nine months of 2013/14 to £739.3 million in the first nine months of 2014/15, an increase of £30.9 million (4.4%). The NIC is the cost of drugs and appliances reimbursed after deduction of any dispenser discount.

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 Practitioner Services on behalf of NHS Boards. Monthly data are published on a quarterly basis by ISD and a year-end summary is provided.

Contact

Catriona Young

Senior Information Analyst

catriona.young@nhs.net

0131 275 6599

Lewis Jack

Information Analyst

lewisjack@nhs.net

0131 275 7934

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/