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 4.0% (£46.3 million) in 2014/15 compared to 2013/14.

Services Provided
- The cost for remuneration of services has increased by £1.5 million (0.7%) from £207.0 million in 2013/14 to £208.5 million in 2014/15.

Products Dispensed
- A total of 101.1 million items were dispensed in 2014/15, an increase of 2.3 million items (2.4%) on 2013/14. The cost per item has also increased this year to £10.04 from £9.89 per item in 2013/14.
- Both the gross ingredient cost (GIC) and net ingredient cost (NIC) of items increased between 2013/14 and 2014/15. GIC increased by 3.9% from 2013/14 and the NIC increased by 4.8%

Background
The cost per item is calculated by dividing the gross ingredient cost by the number of prescription items. Gross ingredient cost (GIC) is the cost of drugs and appliances reimbursed before deduction of any dispenser discount. The net ingredient cost (NIC) is the
cost of drugs and appliances reimbursed after deduction of any dispenser discount. The NIC differs from total net cost of items dispensed detailed in the Prescription Cost Analysis publication.

The information in this publication is taken from data gathered by Practitioner Services, part of NHS National Services Scotland. Payments to dispensing contractors are made by Practitioner Services on behalf of NHS Boards.

Contact
Paula McClements
Senior Information Analyst
paula.mcclements@nhs.net
0131 275 7666

Catriona Young
Senior Information Analyst
Catriona.young@nhs.net
0131 275 6599

Further Information

ISD holds several decades of information on medicines prescribed within NHSScotland. We currently have data on over one billion prescriptions. All of the information we publish on prescribing is available on our website at: http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Prescribing-and-medicines/

Further information can be found in the Full Prescribing Remuneration Report

All the data contained in this report is also available as downloadable data tables.

This report will be updated in September 2015.