

# Publication Summary



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

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 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

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## 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.

### 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/)