

# Publication Summary



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

Quarter Two of Financial Year 2015/16

Publication date – 15 December 2015



### 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 from the Information Services Division reports on the payments they receive.

### Key Points

#### Overall Cost

- The gross total payments to Scottish dispensing contractors increased by £36.7 million (6.3%) between the first six months of 2014/15 and the first six months of 2015/16.

#### Services Provided

- The cost for remuneration of services has increased by £2.9 million (2.9%) from £102.1 million in the first six months of 2014/15 to £105.0 million in the same period in 2015/16.

#### Products Dispensed

- A total of 50.9 million items were dispensed in the first six months of 2015/16, an increase of 0.4 million items (0.9%) compared to the same half of 2014/15. The cost per item has also increased to £10.58 from £9.91 per item in the first six months of 2014/15.
- Both the gross ingredient cost (GIC) and net ingredient cost (NIC) of items increased between the first six months of 2014/15 and the first six months of 2015/16. The GIC increased by 7.7% and the NIC increased by 7.0%.

## Background

The cost per item is calculated by dividing the gross ingredient cost by the number of prescription items. The 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.

This report does not include information on prescriptions dispensed within hospitals but does include information on prescriptions written in hospitals that were dispensed in the community.

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

### Paul Paxton

Information Analyst  
[paulpaxton@nhs.net](mailto:paulpaxton@nhs.net)  
0131 314 1039

### Sarah Szwandt

Senior Information Analyst  
[sarahszwandt@nhs.net](mailto:sarahszwandt@nhs.net)  
0131 275 7376

## 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 March 2016.

### ISD and 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.

Further information [about our statistics](#).