

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



Quarter Three of Financial Year 2015/16

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

## Main points

### Overall Cost

- The gross total payments to Scottish dispensing contractors in the first nine months of 2015/16 were £956.7 million. This is an increase of £61.9 million (6.9%) between the first nine months of 2014/15 and the first nine months of 2015/16.

### Services Provided

- The cost for remuneration of services has increased by £3.7 million (2.4%) from £155.5 million in the first nine months of 2014/15 to £159.2 million in the same period in 2015/16.

### Products Dispensed

- A total of 77.2 million items were dispensed in the first nine months of 2015/16, an increase of 0.8 million items (1.1%) compared to the same period of 2014/15. The cost per item has also increased from £10.01 to £10.76 in the first nine months of 2014/15.
- The gross ingredient cost (GIC) of items increased by 8.7% between the first nine months of 2014/15 and the first nine months of 2015/16. This is partly due to the move in dispensing of some high cost treatment regimes from hospital to primary care.

## 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.

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.

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## Find out more

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 the [prescribing section of the ISD website](#).

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 the annual remuneration report in June 2016.

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## ISD and Official Stats

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