

General Pharmaceutical Services Quarterly Series Finalised Information to Q4 2022/23



Prescription Items A prescription item is a single supply of a medicine, dressing or appliance written on a prescription form. If a prescription form includes three medicines it is counted as three prescription items. Only prescriptions that are subsequently dispensed are included in the dataset.

Ingredient Cost The ingredient cost refers to the list price of the drug, excluding VAT. It does not take into account any contract prices or discounts, dispensing costs or fees and will not necessarily reflect the actual amount that has been paid.

There were **11.3 million** items dispensed in the community in Northern Ireland during the period January to March 2023.



An increase of **0.7%** on the previous quarter



An increase of **4.7%** on the same quarter in 2021/22

The total ingredient cost for prescription items dispensed in Northern Ireland during January to March 2023 was **£128 million**.



An increase of **2.8%** on the previous quarter



An increase of **14.2%** on the same quarter in 2021/22

The average ingredient cost per prescription item was **£11.30**

2.1% on the previous quarter
 9.1% on the same quarter last year

The average ingredient cost per prescription item was higher for **males (£12.48)** than **females (£10.29)**.

It was also higher than the NI average in the younger age groups: **0-4 (£20.03)**; **5-14 (£25.00)**; **15-24 (£16.43)**.

The average ingredient cost per prescription item ranges from **£12.17** in the **'South Eastern'** trust area to **£10.39** in the **'Western'** trust area. This is consistent with the past 23 quarters.

The average ingredient cost per prescription item is lowest in the **'Derry City & Strabane'** council area (**£9.94**). This is consistent with all previous quarters. It is highest in the **'Ards & North Down'** council area (**£12.70**). This is consistent with the past 13 quarters.