

General Pharmaceutical Services Quarterly Series to Q1 2023/24 (2023/24 figures provisional)



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 **11.2 million** items dispensed in the community in Northern Ireland during the period April to June 2023.



A decrease of **0.8%** on the previous quarter



An increase of **2.6%** on the same quarter in 2022/23

The total ingredient cost for prescription items dispensed in Northern Ireland during April to June 2023 was **£127 million**.





A decrease of **0.9%** on the previous quarter



An increase of **11.3%** on the same quarter in 2022/23

The average ingredient cost per prescription item was **£11.29**

 **8.5%** on the same quarter last year
 **0.1%** on the previous quarter

The average ingredient cost per prescription item was higher for **males (£12.47)** than **females (£10.25)**.

It was also higher than the NI average in the younger age groups: **0-4 (£22.53)**; **5-14 (£24.81)**; **15-24 (£16.42)**.

The average ingredient cost per prescription item ranges from **£12.20** in the **'South Eastern'** trust area to **£10.36** in the **'Western'** trust area. This is consistent with the past 24 quarters.

The average ingredient cost per prescription item is lowest in the **'Derry City & Strabane'** council area (**£9.88**). This is consistent with all previous quarters. It is highest in the **'Ards & North Down'** council area (**£12.73**). This is consistent with the past 14 quarters.