Investment in General Practice 2012/13 to 2016/17 England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland

Data Quality Statement
Published 20 September 2017

The Investment in General Practice 2012/13 to 2016/17 England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland provides details of the investment in General Practice and the reimbursement of drugs dispensed in General Practices from 2012/13 to 2016/17.

This Data Quality Statement is designed to accompany Investment in General Practice 2012/13 to 2016/17 England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, and each subsequent edition of the report.
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This product may be of interest to stakeholders, policy officials, commissioners and members of the public.
Introduction

The Investment in General Practice report uses information obtained from country level financial monitoring reports and other published data on reimbursement and remuneration for dispensing activity. These are discussed and subsequently agreed by the Technical Steering Committee (TSC), which is chaired by NHS Digital (the new trading name of the Health and Social Care Information Centre - HSCIC) and has representation from the UK Health Departments, NHS England, NHS Employers and the British Medical Association (BMA).

Information was provided to health departments by local providers in each of the countries, and therefore the accuracy of the original data lies with the organisations providing the data.

The health departments (NHS England, Welsh Government, Department of Health Northern Ireland and Scottish Government) collated the data to provide national level figures, and the information was passed to NHS Digital.

Accuracy

Figures are an accurate summary of how investment and spend on General Practice has changed over time. Information is provided to health departments by local providers as part of their audited statutory accounts. As part of the annual statutory accounts, the data are audited by appointed auditors therefore it can be considered to be accurate and reliable. Each country’s Health Department carefully checks the figures.

All results received from each of the countries are validated at a high level by NHS Digital and any anomalies are flagged up and discussed with TSC.

Relevance

Investment in General Practice data are used to collate investment in General Practice data, and enable comparisons by country. The publication meets these needs.

Coherence and Comparability

Investment data are derived from different sources within the Health Departments across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland and the data are comparable across countries.

Figures for England in the publication will not be the same as those in the *NHS Payments to General Practice* publication, which reports only on cash payments made to GP Practices within the financial year. This is due to the inclusion of accruals, prepayments and other accounting adjustments and income from Local Authority
Public Health Grants for the provision of public health services. Similarly, as figures for all GP contract types are included in *Investment in General Practice* this means that a direct comparison cannot be made between total gross earnings in the *GP Earnings and Expenses* report and total UK investment in General Practice figures.

**Timeliness and Punctuality**

The report is published in September, approximately six months after the financial year-end, alongside the *NHS Payments to General Practice* report.

**Accessibility**

All reports are accessible via the NHS Digital internet as PDF documents. The tables are also available in Excel and CSV formats.

**Performance Cost and Respondent Burden**

The data used within the publication are a secondary use of the data and so add no additional burden on NHS organisations. The data are obtained from administrative systems within each country.

**Confidentiality, Transparency and Security**

All publications are subject to a standard NHS Digital risk assessment prior to issue. Disclosure control is implemented where judged necessary. The data contained in this publication are Official Statistics. The [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](https://www.nhsdigital.nhs.uk/corporate/privacy-and-protection/our-approach/code-of-practice) is adhered to from collecting the data to publishing.

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