

United Kingdom

Recent and planned changes in pharmaceutical pricing and reimbursement and overview of the medical devices system

P H A R M A C E U T I C A L S	Changes in pricing	Changes in reimbursement
	<p>The 2014 Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS), a new voluntary non-contractual 5 year scheme agreed with the pharmaceutical industry for the pricing of branded medicines, began on 1 January 2014.</p> <p>The 2014 PPRS introduces a fixed limit to NHS spend on branded medicines with spend above this limit paid for by industry. Companies which are not members of the voluntary scheme are subject to a 15% price cut under statutory regulations.</p> <p>The text of the new scheme can found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/pharmaceutical-price-regulation-scheme-2014</p>	None.
	Other changes related to medicines	
	<p>From 1 April 2014, the prescription charge increased to £8.05 per prescribed item. The cost of prescription prepayment certificates remain unchanged at £29.10 for a 3 month certificate and £104.00 for an annual certificate.</p>	
M E D I C E S	Pricing and reimbursement system of medical devices	
	<p>Competent Authority – As for medicines i.e. overall the Department of Health; the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)] is responsible for regulation of medicines and medical devices; and National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) provides evidence-based guidance to the NHS.</p> <p>Price Regulation – there is no regulation of prices of medical devices supplied to the NHS.</p> <p>Reimbursement – In primary care (in-patient sector), a list of devices (appliances and chemical reagents) approved for prescribing on the NHS and their reimbursement price are published in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.</p> <p>In secondary care (out-patient sector), the NHS is characterised by a separation between commissioner and provider. Reimbursement of devices by the commissioner is generally included in the price paid to the provider in the cost of the service being provided. Where the cost of the devices would be disproportionate to the cost of treatment their use and reimbursement is negotiated separately between provider and commissioner.</p> <p>Price sources/prices known – actual purchase prices are not freely available. The reimbursement price of appliances and chemical reagents are listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff. Prices for devices used in secondary care vary across the NHS as procurement is managed by a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • national framework agreements through the NHS Supply Chain; • framework agreements/contracts on behalf of member trusts through 10 procurement intermediary organisations; • individual contracts by 250 NHS Trusts. 	