**Primary Care NHS Service Support Costs**

Prior to 2008, the combination of limited funds in Health Board Support for Science allocations to meet the service support costs (SSCs) of GP research and a lack of consistency as to how such funds are reimbursed were identified as barriers to GPs participating in research.

CSO allowed SPCRN to pilot management of the budget of £80,000 for reimbursement of service support costs (SSCs) to practices from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009. After a successful pilot phase, CSO agreed that SPCRN would continue to manage the SSC budget for primary care studies through NHS Tayside from 1 April 2009. The budget for SSCs 2015-16 is £100,000.

SPCRN node staff are able to calculate the costs involving primary care staff in research and arrange direct reimbursement of SSCs via BACS payment for GP and Dental practices.