

21 MAR 2014

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Ref: H201400325

Dear Mr Body

Thank you for your email of 1 February 2014 requesting official information on the numbers and costs of hemipelvectomies, pelvic restoration and spinal fusions. Ministry staff requested clarification of your request on 5 February 2014 and received your response on 10 February 2014.

The tables presented in this response cover estimated medical and surgical costs. The cost of individual custom implants or devices used during surgery and the cost of rehabilitation are not included as the Ministry of Health does not hold this information.

Hospital data reported to the Ministry of Health is coded using the International Statistical Classification of Diseases. Currently New Zealand is using the 6th edition of the Australian Modification of the Tenth Revision (ICD-10-AM-VI). These codes do not include any information about the nature of implants that are used; they only identify the procedures that were performed.

The hospital discharge information reported to the Ministry of Health is stored in the National Minimum Dataset (NMDS). The NMDS holds a derived costweight that can be used to calculate the estimated cost of a hospital event; it does not record the actual cost of an event. The methodology used to calculate costweights can be found on the Ministry's website via this link:
<http://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/data-references/weighted-inlier-equivalent-separations?mega=Health%20statistics&title=Weighted%20Inlier%20Equivalent%20Separations>

We have used the following ICD-10-AM-VI procedure codes to identify the categories that you are interested in:

Category	Block	Code	Description
Hemipelvectomies	1484*	4437300	Hindquarter amputation
Pelvic reconstruction	1479*	4749800	Internal fixation of fracture of acetabulum
Spinal fusion	46*	4033200	Decompression of cervical spinal cord with anterior fusion, 1 level
		4033500	Decompression of cervical spinal cord with anterior fusion, >= 2 levels
	1389	4864200	Posterior spinal fusion, 1 or 2 levels
		4864500	Posterior spinal fusion, >= 3 levels

		4864800	Posterolateral spinal fusion, 1 or 2 levels
		4865100	Posterolateral spinal fusion, >= 3 levels
		4865400	Posterior spinal fusion with laminectomy, 1 level
		4865401	Posterolateral spinal fusion with laminectomy, 1 level
		4865700	Posterior spinal fusion with laminectomy, >= 2 levels
		4865701	Posterolateral spinal fusion with laminectomy, >= 2 levels
		4866000	Anterior spinal fusion, 1 level
		4866900	Anterior spinal fusion, >= 2 levels
Anterior spinal fusion	46*	4033200	Decompression of cervical spinal cord with anterior fusion, 1 level
		4033500	Decompression of cervical spinal cord with anterior fusion, >= 2 levels
	1389*	4866000	Anterior spinal fusion, 1 level
		4866900	Anterior spinal fusion, >= 2 levels

* Indicates that not all procedures within that block code are included.

The table below contains the numbers and estimated costs of events containing these procedures. Please note that these costs include any other procedures that may have been performed during the hospitalisation:


Year	Hemipelvectomies		Pelvic reconstruction		Spinal fusion		Anterior spinal fusion	
	Discharges	Estimated Cost	Discharges	Estimated Cost	Discharges	Estimated Cost	Discharges	Estimated Cost
2008/09	3	\$421,233.98	5	\$86,335.58	1051	\$20,817,882.94	361	\$6,588,492.76
2009/10	-	-	3	\$52,175.45	1121	\$27,261,999.26	414	\$8,525,498.73
2010/11	3	\$152,187.66	7	\$134,928.96	1205	\$31,163,278.02	381	\$8,454,349.60
2011/12	4	\$186,141.66	8	\$359,148.59	1262	\$39,746,308.49	381	\$10,801,744.34
2012/13	5	\$267,241.12	1	\$13,625.28	1323	\$41,215,954.95	414	\$11,692,304.66

Please note that spinal fusion includes all the anterior spinal fusion events.

If you have any queries about this data, please direct them to Analytical Services, Ministry of Health. They can be contacted by phone on (04) 496-2000, fax on (04) 816-2898 or by e-mail (data-enquiries@moh.govt.nz).

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision on this request.

Yours sincerely


Michael Hundleby
Acting National Director
National Health Board
Ministry of Health