

10 MAR 2014

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David Body
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Dear Mr Body

Thank you for your email of 12 February 2014 requesting official information on the numbers and costs of wrist replacement, toe joint replacement and toe joint fusion surgeries.

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
Wrist replacement	1468*	4632400	Arthroplasty of carpal bone
	1468*	4920600	Excision arthroplasty of wrist
	1468*	4920900	Total arthroplasty of wrist
	1472	9054300	Revision arthroplasty of wrist
Toe joint replacement	1698*	4579407	Osseointegration procedure, implantation of titanium fixture for replacement of joint of digit
	1547*	4982100	Correction of hallux valgus or rigidus by arthroplasty, unilateral
	1547*	4982400	Correction of hallux valgus or rigidus by arthroplasty, bilateral
	1547*	4983900	Correction of hallux valgus or rigidus by arthroplasty with insertion of prosthesis, unilateral
	1547*	4984200	Correction of hallux valgus or rigidus by arthroplasty with insertion of prosthesis, bilateral
	1544*	4985700	Replacement of metatarsophalangeal joint
Toe joint replacement involving insertion of prosthesis	1547*	4983900	Correction of hallux valgus or rigidus by arthroplasty with insertion of prosthesis, unilateral
	1547*	4984200	Correction of hallux valgus or rigidus by arthroplasty with insertion of prosthesis, bilateral
Toe joint fusion	1543*	4984500	Arthrodesis of first metatarsophalangeal joint
	1548*	4985100	Correction of hammer toe with internal fixation
	1548*	4985101	Correction of claw toe with internal fixation
	1543*	9055900	Arthrodesis of toe

* 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. It should be noted that this includes any other procedures that may have been performed during the hospitalisation:

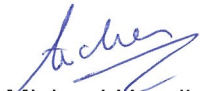
Year	Wrist replacement		Toe joint replacement		Toe joint replacement involving insertion of prosthesis		Toe joint fusion	
	Discharges	Estimated Cost	Discharges	Estimated Cost	Discharges	Estimated Cost	Discharges	Estimated Cost
2008/09	63	\$318,309.90	41	\$243,141.58	1	\$5,054.18	428	\$2,388,670.49
2009/10	83	\$413,373.36	32	\$198,623.42	3	\$15,972.02	423	\$2,446,197.04
2010/11	76	\$373,384.98	42	\$265,292.30	6	\$32,646.51	389	\$2,448,351.45
2011/12	95	\$580,054.79	49	\$325,596.27	4	\$24,624.71	466	\$2,806,195.97
2012/13	121	\$613,285.82	43	\$276,054.09	6	\$36,227.80	511	\$3,225,009.43

It should be noted that toe joint replacement includes all the toe joint replacement involving insertion of prosthesis 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