

Proposals for the 2017/18 – 2018/19 National Tariff: areas for further policy development

Issue	Description	Plan to resolve
Chemotherapy delivery	<p>NHS England has been working with a group of clinicians, commissioners, coding experts and HSCIC to look at how we can improve the payment system for chemotherapy services.</p> <p>Under the current system there is a list of individual regimens, each one of which is mapped to a specific OPCS code which describes the delivery of the drug. In the 2016/17 NTPS the list was partially updated. However, new regimens are introduced regularly and the delivery mechanism of existing regimens may also change.</p>	<p>NHS England proposes to work with providers and commissioners over the coming months to explore chemotherapy reimbursement issues further and identify what changes could be made, and when these might take effect.</p> <p>Possible changes include ‘re-weighting’ the current chemotherapy delivery tariffs to better reflect clinical practice. This could mean some significant changes to HRGs SB11Z, SB15Z and SB17Z and the possible introduction of a proposed national tariff for SB17Z.</p>
Pleural effusion Best Practice Tariff	Due to the current compliance rate for pleural effusion we have encountered issues with the calculation of the price, such as a fall in the quantum of more than 50%.	Will be addressed in the statutory consultation.
Orthopaedics	We are aware that Orthopaedic prices as published may not be sustainable for providers as they would introduce a large reduction in funding which may put providers at risk.	Work is underway with clinical experts working within orthopaedics, the British Orthopaedic Association and the Specialist Orthopaedic Alliance to understand the issues. Draft prices will be reviewed before

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		the statutory consultation later in the year.
Other Cancer Multi Disciplinary Teams (MDT)	We are reviewing national prices for Other Cancer Multi-Disciplinary Teams, to reflect changes made to the way that these costs were collected in the 2014/15 reference costs.	We are considering how we might address this. One option may be to reimburse Other Cancer MDTs outside of national prices, as is consistent with the treatment of specified MDTs. Total quantum in tariff would need to be amended for any such change in scope.
Renal dialysis	Prices for renal dialysis calculated using reference costs do not cover the cost of treatment. This is issue that has occurred in previous years.	Work is ongoing with provider finance representatives, clinicians and patient groups to address the variation in reported reference costs. We are considering using the prices adopted under the 2016/17 national tariff. For the purposes of this engagement no prices have been published. It should be noted that the prices used in the impact assessment were those originally modelled. This means that in this area the impact assessment is not accurate
Implantation massive endoprosthetic replacement of bone – OPCS code W052	This procedure maps to a number of HRGs, where the price varies and clinical feedback has suggested the prices are incorrect.	We are considering how to resolve, this issue which may involve removing this procedure from the scope of national prices.
High cost drugs – Fibrin sealants	We are proposing to remove fibrin sealants from the high cost drugs list. However we do not have information through reference costs to adjust the prices in time for this publication.	We are working to make this adjustment in time for the statutory consultation.

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High cost devices	As a result of HRG design changes, we propose to nationally price a number of devices previously included in the list of high cost drugs and devices. There are however implications which need to be worked through with NHS England's central procurement programme.	We will look to ensure that changes to the high cost devices list are appropriately aligned with NHS England procurement policy
We are reviewing how we might incentivise automated red cell exchange in patients with sickle cell disease	Currently, all red cell exchanges are captured using the same OPCS code and so a new supplementary code has been proposed which will enable differentiation between automated red cell exchanges from manual exchange procedures. The supplementary code will identify the different approaches to red cell exchange for this group of patients.	We are considering how we might be able to build an appropriate BPT to incentive automated red cell exchange.
Radiotherapy	Work is underway to implement the Cancer Action Plan recommendations relating to Radiotherapy and the replacement of linear accelerators. The impact of this work will need to be reflected in revised prices for radiotherapy, in particular ensuring effective infrastructure investment.	There is still work required to understand the impact any investment in linear accelerators will have on radiotherapy costs and once this is known we will consider the potential pricing implications.
Maternity prices	We have identified an issued in the model used to calculate prices for maternity services. This means that these prices are about 1% higher than they would be if modelled in a manner consistent with other prices.	This will be corrected for the statutory consultation.
Manual adjustments	A number of issues have been identified with manual adjustments these are:	

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	Some of the advice we received from expect engagement has not been implemented	This will be considered alongside the feedback we receive.
	We've identified a handful of HRGs where the manual adjustment instructions have not been implemented correctly.	In Annex B under the 'Notes' section we have stated that they are under review. A list of these instances is as follows: BZ87B, BZ89A, HE12B, YA02B
	In some cases the prices that we shared for feedback were based on an incorrect price (ie prices were modelled without the application of the specialist top slice). However, this has a very minor effect on prices (2% or less).	We will correct this in the next round of prices, affected HRGs are: AA51D, AA52E, AA57A, AA80Z

All proposals for the 2017/18 – 2018/19 national tariff developed after the tariff engagement consultation period will be highlighted on the 2017/18 webpage. <https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/developing-201718-national-tariff/> Stakeholders can if they wish sign-up for updates via this page and receive emails when new content is published.