

Reference:	FOI.4242.20
Subject:	Cobweb
Date of Request:	9 October 2020

Requested:

It's my understanding that COBWEB is not a registered charity and charges for the Bladder and Bowel Control and Collection items that are used by HDUHB primary and secondary care patients.

1. Would HDUHB Finance Directorate please confirm the body that charges HDUHB for the supply of COBWEB Bladder and Bowel Control and Collection items that are used by HDUHB primary and secondary care patients?
2. Would HDUHB Finance Directorate please confirm the total sum HDUHB paid to the body that supplied COBWEB Bladder and Bowel Control and Collection items that were used by HDUHB primary and secondary care patients during the period 05/04/2019-04/04/2020?
3. Would HDUHB Finance Directorate please confirm that it is able to qualify and quantify each item of cost that constituted the total sum HDUHB paid to the body that supplied COBWEB Bladder Control and Collection items used by HDUHB primary and secondary care patients during the period 05/04/2019-04/04/2020.
4. Would HDUHB Finance Directorate please confirm that it is able to detail the cost of each item that appears on the lists that were attached to the email dated 21/05/2020 13:16?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that the Cobweb System is a computer-based software package providing central patient management for the management and order of continence products. The UHB paid a small one off license fee of £100.00 for the use of this software system.

The system process is that once a request has been made, a written prescription is produced, which is provided to the identified supplier. This supplier may be a company providing direct supply (e.g. Coloplast, Bard) to the patient themselves or to a nominated Community Pharmacy. The items provided in this way are not chargeable to the Cobweb system but are paid through the prescription payment process.

2. The UHB can confirm that no sum was paid to Cobweb during the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The total value of continence products that were ordered via the cobweb management system, including those items ordered by hospital teams, was £1,539m for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

The items supplied to patients, using the Cobweb management system, are provided through a range of sources, with individual items priced at Drug Tariff Price regardless of individual supplier.

The Drug Tariff can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/pharmacies-gp-practices-and-appliance-contractors/drug-tariff/drug-tariff-part-ix>

3. As previously stated in response to question 2, the UHB did not make any payments to the body that supplied Cobweb during the 2019/20 financial year, as any payments are made directly to the supplier of the continence product.
4. The UHB provides, within the attached Excel spreadsheet (Attachment 1), the cost of each item that appears on the lists that were attached to the email dated 21/05/2020.

Please note, these products can only be supplied in the original packs (i.e. the outer boxes); therefore, a box of five (5) or ten (10) is often the minimum order size that can be placed.