

Reference:	FOI.17643.25
Subject:	Implant cost data for Trauma and Orthopaedic (T&O) operations
Date of Request:	25 July 2025

Requested:

1. Dynamic Hip Screw (DHS)
 Procedure: Internal fixation of hip fractures using a sliding hip screw system (commonly extracapsular, but may include other fracture types, intracapsular).
 - a. What is the most commonly used implant for this procedure at your hospital?
 - b. Approximately how many of these procedures were performed in a 12-month period?
 - c. What is the average implant cost per patient during that period?

2. Short Intramedullary Femoral Nail
 Procedure: Internal fixation of femoral fractures using a short intramedullary nail (e.g. for unstable intertrochanteric or subtrochanteric fractures).
 - a. What is the most commonly used implant for this procedure?
 - b. Approximately how many of these procedures were performed in a 12-month period?
 - c. What is the average implant cost per patient during that period?

3. Distal Radius ORIF (Plate and Screws)
 Procedure: Open reduction and internal fixation of distal radius fractures.
 - a. What is the most commonly used plate implant for this procedure?
 - b. Approximately how many of these procedures were performed in a 12-month period?
 - c. What is the average implant cost per patient during that period?

If your response covers multiple hospital sites within the trust, please kindly specify whether the data provided is for the entire trust or for individual hospital sites.

We understand that implant costs may vary slightly depending on size or configuration. An approximate or average per-patient cost for each implant is perfectly acceptable.

Response:

Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) has considered the application of an exemption under Section 43 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), to questions 1c, 2c and 3c, as they relate to third parties and would be prejudicial to their commercial interests. Section 43(2) exempts information, where disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of any company.

Commercial interests may be prejudiced where disclosure would, or would be likely to:

- Weaken a company's position in a competitive environment by revealing market sensitive information or information of potential usefulness to its competitors
- Damage a company's business reputation or the confidence that customers/users, suppliers or investors may have in it.

This exemption is qualified; therefore, even if information falls within Section 43, public authorities must then apply the public interest test set out in Section 2(2)(b).

The information can only be withheld if the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

The UHB has therefore considered the following:

In favour of disclosure: There is a public interest in transparency and in the accountability of public funds. Furthermore, it is in the public's interest that public funds be used effectively and that public sector bodies obtain the best value for money when contracting for the provision of services.

Against Disclosure: Disclosure of this information would have a direct impact and may cause substantial harm to the providers, as it would disclose their pricing, and it would be likely that this would damage their ability to work within a highly competitive sector. The information being requested is likely to be used by their competitors to gain a competitive advantage.

Decision: - Following a previous FOI request, FOI.436.17, whereby the provider of hip arthroplasty prosthesis objected to the disclosure of their costs based on concerns relating to their commercial interests. The UHB can confirm it did consider the application of a Section 43 exemption under the FOIA and was preparing to seek comments from its third-party suppliers in relation to the matter.

However, upon further scrutiny and discussion with internal teams, it was ascertained that this information was not held. There are multiple variables and factors which determine the materials required to undertake a patient's procedure, many of which are not finalised until the patient is in theatre. As a result, the UHB does not hold a central list of equipment and costs required for each procedure, which would possibly contain an average. The information would instead, need to be collated from patient theatre records and subsequently calculated to create the information being requested. The creation of information to answer a request is not a requirement of the Freedom of Information Act. Therefore, the UHB is unable to provide the information requested for 1c, 2c and 3c as it is not held.

1a. The UHB confirms DePuy-Synthes is the most commonly used implant for a Dynamic Hip Screw (DHS) procedure.

1b. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of DHS procedures that were undertaken, split by hospital site, during the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Hospital Site	Number of Procedures undertaken
Bronglais General Hospital (BGH)	45
Glangwili General Hospital (GGH)	50
Withybush General Hospital (WGH)	58
Prince Philip Hospital (PPH)	0
Total	153

1c. Not held.

2a. The UHB confirms Styker Gamma 3 is the most commonly used implant for a Short Intramedullary Femoral Nail procedure.

2b. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of Short Intramedullary Femoral Nail procedures that were undertaken, split by hospital site, during the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Hospital Site	Number of Procedures undertaken
BGH	19
GGH	104
WGH	37
PPH	*
Total	**

Where the figures within the above table have been replaced with an asterisk (*), the UHB is unable to provide you with the exact number of patients due to the low number of cases (less than 5), as there is a potential risk of identifying individuals if this was disclosed. The UHB has also replaced totals that could be used to calculate the redacted figure with a double asterisk (**). The UHB is therefore withholding this detail under Section 40(2) of the FoIA. This information is protected by the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) / UK General Data Protection Regulations, as its disclosure would constitute unfair and unlawful processing and would be contrary to the principles and articles of the UK GDPR. This exemption is absolute and therefore, there is no requirement to apply the public interest test.

In reaching this decision, the DPA and UK GDPR define personal data as data that relates to a living individual who can be identified solely from that data or from that data and other information, which is in the possession of the data controller.

2c. Not held.

3a. The UHB confirms Styker Variax is the most commonly used implant for a Distal Radius ORIF procedure.

3b. The UHB provides within the table below, the number of Distal Radius ORIF procedures that were undertaken, split by hospital site, during the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Hospital Site	Number of Procedures undertaken
BGH	44
GGH	121
WGH	102
PPH	0
Total	267

3c. Not held.