

Reference:	FOI.20047.26
Subject:	Septoplasty procedures
Date of Request:	26 March 2026

Requested:

1. Is a shortage of resources responsible for the long waiting time for a Septoplasty operation?
2. Is the Health Board using private resources to tackle the backlog?
3. If the Health Board is using private resources, what resources are they using?
4. What action is being taken to reduce the waiting list for a Septoplasty operation and when should it come down to a waiting time of under 4 weeks?
5. What is the average cost of a Septoplasty operation to the NHS if performed in the Private sector?
6. What is the average cost of a Septoplasty operation undertaken by Hywel Dda's own staff?

Response:

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) confirms that there is a long waiting list for Septoplasty procedures, due to the volume of patients on the waiting list outweighing theatre capacity, in addition to the high demand for urgent cases and cancer patients. In addition, during October 2024 and March 2026, there was increased cancellations due to theatre staffing challenges.
2. The UHB confirms that it is not using private resources to reduce the waiting list for Septoplasty procedures.
3. Not applicable.
4. As at 31 March 2026, the UHB had achieved the national NHS Wales delivery target of ensuring that no patient waiting for non-urgent Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) procedures waited longer than one hundred and four (104) weeks from referral to treatment; including patients awaiting non-urgent Septoplasty procedures. This national delivery target will continue to apply during the 2026/27 financial year.

Whilst patients awaiting clinically urgent treatments are prioritised and treated according to their assessed clinical need, the capacity required to reduce waiting times from referral to treatment for non-urgent Septoplasty procedures to four (4) weeks significantly exceeds that currently available.

The UHB is continuing its efforts to reduce overall waiting times, and has significantly reduced waiting times for ENT outpatient assessments with over 90% of patients waiting less than twenty-six (26) weeks for their first outpatient assessment, as at 31 March 2026.

5. The UHB does not hold the requested information, as it does not outsource Septoplasty procedures.

6. The UHB confirms that as reported on the costing return submitted to Welsh Government (WG) for the 2024/25 financial year, the average cost for an adult Septoplasty procedure was £1,761.03.