

Your Request:

1) I would like to know how much the Integrated Care Board (ICB) pays providers for a variety of abortion services in the context of the NHS England national tariff payment system.

Below is a partial table of the national tariff prices (2022/23) for abortion procedures, as set out by NHS England: https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/22-23NT_Annex-DtA-National-tariff-workbook.xlsx (tab APC & OPROC, rows 1,704 to 1,713).

To respond to the FOI, please can you fill out the third column of the table below with how much the ICB pays providers for each procedure set out in the first column. The second column is the rate for each procedure according to the national tariff system.

HRG Name	Combined day case /ordinary elective spell (£)	How much the ICB pays providers to carry out procedure (£)
Surgical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, over 20 weeks Gestation	2,701	
Surgical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, from 14 to 20 weeks Gestation	1,552	
Surgical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, under 14 weeks Gestation, with Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	1,161	
Surgical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, under 14 weeks Gestation, without Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	1,078	
Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, over 20 weeks Gestation	2,455	
Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, from 14 to 20 weeks Gestation	978	
Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, from 9 to under 14 weeks Gestation, with Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	763	
Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, from 9 to under 14 weeks Gestation, without Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	492	
Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, under 9 weeks Gestation, with Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	660	
Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, under 9 weeks Gestation, without Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	389	

Our Response:

1) NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB pays NHS providers the above published national tariffs, adjusted for Market Forces Factor (MFF) as per the national guidance which is detailed below.

			1.033559	
HRG Code	HRG Name	Combined day case /ordinary elective spell (£)	Tariff Plus MFF	
MA50Z	Surgical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, over 20 weeks Gestation	2,701	2,792	
MA51Z	Surgical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, from 14 to 20 weeks Gestation	1,552	1,604	
MA52A	Surgical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, under 14 weeks Gestation, with Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	1,161	1,200	
MA52B	Surgical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, under 14 weeks Gestation, without Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	1,078	1,114	
MA53Z	Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, over 20 weeks Gestation	2,455	2,537	
MA54Z	Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, from 14 to 20 weeks Gestation	978	1,011	
MA55A	Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, from 9 to under 14 weeks Gestation, with Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	763	789	
MA55B	Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, from 9 to under 14 weeks Gestation, without Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	492	509	
MA56A	Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, under 9 weeks Gestation, with Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	660	682	
MA56B	Medical, Abortion or Miscarriage Care, under 9 weeks Gestation, without Insertion of Long-Acting Contraceptive	389	402	

NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB also holds information on the agreed tariffs paid to independent (non-NHS) contracted providers of abortion services. However, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB considers that the release of the agreed tariff prices for these services paid to independent providers are exempt from release under Section 43: 'Trade Secrets and Prejudice to Commercial Interests' of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB considers that publication of these negotiated tariffs would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the contracted independent providers and could affect their ability to participate effectively within an open market. Providing such commercially sensitive pricing structure information about an independent company is likely to provide considerable assistance and an unfair advantage to other independent competitors.

In applying the exemption under section 43(2), NHS Cheshire CCG has balanced the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure.