

Ref: FOI/00242/CMICB
27 February 2023

Your Request:

Please see below series of questions regarding procedures delivered and tariffs paid relating to the cataract (and YAG laser) pathway.

The HRG codes related to the below questions for reference are:

BZ31B	BZ32B
BZ33Z	BZ34B
BZ44B	BZ45B
BZ46A	BZ56B
BZ57A	BZ57B
BZ62B	BZ86B
BZ88A	BZ92B
BZ94B	BZ95Z

1) Please confirm the number of cataract procedures performed on behalf of the ICB by the Trust between 1 April 2022 and 31 December 2022.

Our Response:

1) Between 01 April 22 and 31 December 2022, NHS Trusts performed 2,708 cataract procedures for NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB patients which met the HRG & OPCS criteria*.

Your Request:

2) Please confirm the number of cataract procedures performed on behalf of the ICB by each Independent Service Provider (as an individual entity) between 1 April 2022 and 31 December 2022.

3) Please confirm the fee paid per cataract procedure to each Independent Service Provider (as an individual entity) between 1 April 2022 and 31 December 2022.

Our Response:

2) Please find listed below, the number of cataract procedures performed by each non-NHS providers between 01 April 22 and 31 December 2022 for NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB patients which met the HRG & OPCS criteria*.

<i>FAIRFIELD HOSPITAL</i>	18
<i>ISIGHT</i>	98
<i>OPTEGRA UK</i>	1-10**
<i>RAMSAY HEALTHCARE UK OPERATIONS LIMITED</i>	37
<i>SPAMEDICA</i>	4,395
<i>SPIRE MURRAYFIELD HOSPITAL</i>	21

3) Information deemed commercially sensitive***. However, range of average fees per cataract procedure by the above non-NHS providers was between £800.00 - £950.00

Your Request:

4) Please confirm the total fees paid in respect of the delivery of cataract surgery (including pre-assessment and post-operative fees) to each Independent Service Provider (as an individual entity) between 1 April 2022 and 31 December 2022.

5) Please confirm the fee paid per cataract pre-assessment (per individual and for all individuals collectively) to each Independent Service Provider (as an individual entity) between 1 April 2022 and 31 December 2022.

6) Please confirm the fee paid per cataract post-operative assessment (per individual and for all individuals collectively) to each Independent Service Provider (as an individual entity) between 1 April 2022 and 31 December 2022.

Our Response:

4 - 6) Please be advised that pre-assessments and post-operative appointments would be classed as outpatient appointments, which are not coded in a way based on the information held to enable NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB to identify cataract patients specifically in this data. We are therefore unable to provide you with this information requested, as this level of data would be held by the above listed non-NHS providers themselves.

Your Request:

7) Please confirm the number of YAG capsulotomy procedures performed on behalf of the ICB by the Trust (as an individual entity) between 1 April 2022 and 31 December 2022.

Our Response:

7) Between 01 April 22 and 31 December 2022, NHS Trusts performed 728 YAG capsulotomy procedures for NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB patients which met the HRG & OPCS criteria*.

Your Request:

8) Please confirm the number of YAG capsulotomy procedures performed on behalf of the ICB by each Independent Service Provider (as an individual entity) between 1 April 2022 and 31 December 2022.

9) Please confirm the fee paid per YAG capsulotomy procedure to each Independent Service Provider (as an individual entity) between 1 April 2022 and 31 December 2022.

Our Response:

8) Please find listed below, the number of YAG capsulotomy procedures performed by each non-NHS provider between 01 April 22 and 31 December 2022 for NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB patients which met the HRG & OPCS criteria*.

SPAMEDICA	2,585
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9) Information deemed commercially sensitive***. However, average fee per YAG capsulotomy procedure with the above listed non-NHS provider was between £150.00 - £250.00

Your Request:

10) Please confirm the total fees paid in respect of the delivery of YAG capsulotomy surgery (including pre-assessment and post-operative fees) to each Independent Service Provider (as an individual entity) between 1 April 2022 and 31 December 2022.

Our Response:

10) Please be advised that pre-assessments and post-operative appointments would be classed as outpatient appointments, which are not coded in a way based on the information held to enable NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB to identify YAG capsulotomy patients specifically in this data. We are therefore unable to provide you with this information requested, as this level of data would be held by the above listed non-NHS provider themselves.

*Please note that HRG codes provided in your request refer to more than cataract or YAG capsulotomy procedures and as such we have limited the response further by OPCS4 codes 'C7[1-5]%' OR INP.PRIM_PROC_OPCS LIKE 'C77%')

**Due to the low numbers contained in this data and the possibility of individual patient procedures being identified we have provided this low data in a range of '1 – 10'. This decision has been taken in line with Section 40(2): Personal Information of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as this information in its original format could constitute personal data.

*** NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB holds information on the agreed tariffs paid to independent (non-NHS) contracted providers of cataract and YAG capsulotomy. However, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB considers that the release of the exact 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 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.