

# 2021/22 National Tariff Payment System

## Annex C: Guidance on best practice tariffs

September 2021

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# 1 Introduction

1. This document is Annex C of the [2021/22 National Tariff Payment System \(2021/22 NTPS\)](#).
2. This document sets out guidance on best practice tariffs (BPTs). The 2021/22 NTPS introduces an aligned payment and incentive approach for almost all secondary care services and significantly reduces the number of national prices, which apply to unbundled diagnostic imaging services only. We have continued to calculate unit prices for all services that had national prices in the 2017/19 NTPS (before the introduction of blended payment in 2019/20), using the same method as for the calculation of national prices. This includes setting prices for BPTs (see Section 6.2.2 and Annex A of the 2021/22 NTPS).
3. Section 1.1 describes how BPTs operate under the aligned payment and incentive approach; in essence BPTs are to be used in the calculation of the variable element. BPTs also remain available for use by commissioners and providers when agreeing payment for activity outside the aligned payment and incentive approach – eg they may agree to pay the unit prices, with the base and BPT prices payable in the relevant cases. The remainder of this document explains the criteria to be used to determine in each case when the additional or top-up BPT price is applicable.

## 1.1. BPTs and the aligned payment and incentive approach

4. For activity where the aligned payment and incentive rules apply, agreement of payment arrangements involves the following steps:
  - Providers and commissioners should agree an anticipated level of BPT attainment which will be delivered within the fixed element.
  - Where actual attainment differs from plan, extra BPT payments are paid or deducted.
  - Providers and commissioners are able to vary the BPT arrangements. This may include reducing the number of BPTs to which the variable rate applies, or the level of payments attached.
  - Providers and commissioners can only remove the variable element for all BPTs with approval from NHS England and NHS Improvement.

5. This approach applies to all contracts agreed as part of the aligned payment and incentive approach and represents a modification of the payment approach laid out in the remaining sections of this document. For activity outside the scope of aligned payment and incentive agreements, BPTs continue to apply if agreed by both parties.

## 1.2. BPTs for 2021/22

6. For 2021/22, there have been no policy changes to the BPTs. We have retired the day case and outpatient procedures BPTs and clarified the guidance for the spinal surgery BPT.

### Pricing structure

7. Some BPTs relate to specific healthcare resource groups (HRGs) while others are more detailed and relate to a subset of activity within an HRG (sub-HRG). The BPTs that are set at a more detailed level are identified by BPT 'flags', as listed in Annex A, and relate to a subset of activity covered by the high-level HRG. This document should be read in conjunction with Annex A.
8. A summary of the terms used appears below:

Term used	Description
Conventional price (tariff)	The price that would apply if there were not a BPT or for activity covered by the HRG unrelated to the BPT (where set at sub-HRG level).
BPT price (tariff)	The price paid for activity where the requirement(s) of the BPT are achieved. This will normally be higher than the conventional price.
Base price (tariff)	The price paid for activity where the requirement(s) of the BPT are not achieved. This will normally be lower than the conventional price.
Conditional top-up payment	This is the difference between the BPT price and base price. For BPTs where SUS+ automates the base price, this is the amount to be added as a local adjustment where the BPT requirement(s) are met. For BPTs where SUS+ automates the BPT price, this is the amount to recover as a local adjustment where the BPT requirement(s) are not met.

9. For the purposes of validation we do not generally specify achievement periods in the BPTs. Unless specified, achievement periods should be locally agreed, taking into account the availability of data and local reconciliation timescales and recognising achievement in a timely manner to ensure that improvements in care are appropriately incentivised.

## Short-stay emergency adjustments (SSEM) and BPTs

10. The short-stay emergency adjustment (SSEM) is a mechanism for adjusting the unit price that would otherwise be payable for short-stay emergency spells (less than two days) where a longer length of stay would generally be expected.
11. The adjustment should be made to unit prices used for activity where the aligned payment and incentive approach does not apply.
12. The adjusted price is based on rules concerning the average length of stay for the HRG: the higher the average length of stay, the lower the price. These adjustments are set out in Annex A.
13. For BPTs, the SSEM adjustment is not universally applicable because it only applies to diagnostic-driven HRGs. It does not apply, for example, when the BPT's purpose is to reduce length of stay.
14. Table 2 clarifies when the SSEM applies and how the adjustment is to be applied in each case.

**Table 2: Application of SSEM**

Best practice tariff	SSEM applicable	SUS+ applied	Local adjustment required
Adult asthma	Yes	To base price	To conditional top-up
Emergency laparotomy	No – procedure driven	n/a	n/a
COPD	Yes	To base price	To conditional top-up
NSTEMI	No – procedure driven	n/a	n/a
Acute stroke care	No – policy exempt	n/a	n/a
Diabetic ketoacidosis or hypoglycaemia	Yes	To base price	To conditional top-up
Fragility hip and femoral fracture	No – policy exempt	n/a	n/a
Heart failure	Yes	To base price	To conditional top-up
Primary hip and knee replacement outcomes	No – procedure driven	n/a	n/a

15. Providers and commissioners should take the application of SSEM into account when agreeing local data flows and reconciliation processes. Where applicable,

any local adjustment should be made at the same rate as the core spell (as defined in Annex A).

### **Guidance best practice tariffs**

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16. We publish guidance BPTs (previously called non-mandatory BPTs), where we have clear evidence of the need to develop a BPT but elements of it, such as the availability of national data, are not yet fully established. They are intended to be short-term measures to allow time to resolve any issues before finalising a full BPT. They signal our future intent and allow providers time to start reviewing current working practices based on the evidence in the BPT.



## 2 Acute stroke care

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2010/11	2011/12 and 2012/13	Increased price differential
	2013/14	Currency split to differentiate by patient complexity
	2016/17	Updated criteria on brain imaging to be consistent with guidelines from the Royal College of Physicians
	2017/19	Update criteria and clarify reporting requirements
	2019/20	Update and clarify definition of consultant review
	2020/21	Update Level 2 criteria to reflect aim of quicker initial brain imaging and assessment by a stroke specialist clinician

### 2.1 Purpose

17. Patients presenting with symptoms of stroke need to be assessed rapidly and treated in an acute stroke unit by a multidisciplinary clinical team. The team will fully assess, manage and respond to complex care needs, including planning and delivering rehabilitation from the moment the patient enters hospital to maximise their potential for recovery. The acute stroke care BPT is designed to generate improvements in clinical quality in the acute part of the patient pathway. It does so by incentivising key components of clinical practice set out in the National Stroke Strategy,<sup>1</sup> National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) clinical guideline CG68 *Stroke and transient ischaemic attack in over 16s: diagnosis and initial management*<sup>2</sup> and the NICE quality standard for stroke QS2.<sup>3</sup>

### 2.2 Design and criteria of the BPT

18. The Royal College of Physicians has published a national clinical guideline for stroke.<sup>4</sup> Recommendation 3.4.1b of its stroke guidance (fifth edition, 2016) states: “Patients with suspected acute stroke should receive brain imaging

<sup>1</sup> [http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_081062](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081062)

<sup>2</sup> <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG68/NICEGuidance/pdf/English>

<sup>3</sup> [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/QS2](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/QS2)

<sup>4</sup> [www.strokeaudit.org/Guideline/Historical-Guideline.aspx](http://www.strokeaudit.org/Guideline/Historical-Guideline.aspx)

urgently and at most within 1 hour of arrival at hospital.” This supports the changes made to the Level 2 criteria for 2020/21.

19. In 2019/20 we clarified the reporting requirements for the criteria of patients who must be seen by a consultant with stroke specialist skills within 14 hours of admission, setting out how this is reported in the Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP).<sup>5</sup>
20. This design provides additional funding per patient to meet the anticipated costs of delivering best practice and creates an incentive for providers to deliver best practice care.
21. In 2020/21 we have amended the Level 2 criteria so that it is aligned with the urgent care standards being trialled.
22. The BPT is made up of three conditional payment levels:
  - **Level 1:** Patients admitted directly<sup>6</sup> to an acute stroke unit<sup>7</sup> either by the ambulance service, from A&E or via brain imaging; they must not be admitted directly to a medical assessment unit. Patients must be assessed by a consultant with stroke specialist skills, at the bedside, by telemedicine<sup>8</sup> or by telephone with access to picture archiving and communication system (PACS) imaging within 14 hours of admission,<sup>9</sup> then spend most<sup>10</sup> of their stay in the acute stroke unit.
  - **Level 2:** Both initial brain imaging and assessment<sup>11</sup> by a stroke specialist<sup>12</sup> takes place within 1 hour of patient arrival at hospital (including A&E period of care). If, within one hour of arrival at hospital, an assessment is undertaken by a consultant with stroke specialist skills at the bedside, by

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<sup>5</sup> [www.strokeaudit.org/](http://www.strokeaudit.org/)

<sup>6</sup> Due to the variety of routes into the stroke unit, we define direct admission as being within four hours of arrival in hospital.

<sup>7</sup> Or similar facility where the patient can expect to receive the service described in quality marker 9 of the National Stroke Strategy.

<sup>8</sup> Assessed by telemedicine definition - (p16 2.4.1 G-H):  
[www.strokeaudit.org/SupportFiles/Documents/Guidelines/2016-National-Clinical-Guideline-for-Stroke-5t-\(1\).aspx](http://www.strokeaudit.org/SupportFiles/Documents/Guidelines/2016-National-Clinical-Guideline-for-Stroke-5t-(1).aspx)

<sup>9</sup> As SSNAP only measures the time of first admission to a stroke unit, not the time of admission to hospital, for the purposes of the BPT we define ‘admission to hospital’ for stroke patients as ‘clock start’.

<sup>10</sup> Defined as greater than or equal to 90% of the patient’s stay within the spell that groups to HRGs: AA35A; AA35B; AA35C; AA35D; AA35E; AA35F. For a definition on measuring the 90% stay, we recommend that used for the SSNAP.

<sup>11</sup> This assessment could be undertaken by telemedicine or telephone, but we would expect it to be limited to groups such as experienced registrars close to gaining consultant status or experienced stroke nurse consultants.

<sup>12</sup> ‘Stroke specialist’ covers stroke specialist doctors, nurses, physician associates (at trust Medical Director discretion)

telemedicine or telephone then this will also meet the assessment element of Level 1. For the purposes of the BPT, reporting times are not defined but access to skilled radiological and clinical interpretation must be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide timely reporting of brain imaging.

- **Level 3:** Patients are assessed for thrombolysis, receiving alteplase if clinically indicated in accordance with the NICE technology appraisal TA264 *Alteplase for treating acute ischaemic stroke*<sup>13</sup> guidance on this drug.<sup>14</sup>

## 2.3 Operational

23. The base price is generated by the grouper and SUS+, where the spell meets these criteria:
- a) patient aged 19 or over (on admission)
  - b) non-elective admission
  - c) HRG from the list in Annex A.
24. Of the three best practice payment levels, SUS+ will only apply the additional payment for alteplase when OPCS-4 code X833 (fibrinolytic drugs) is coded to create an unbundled HRG XD07Z (fibrinolytic drugs band 1) from AA35A to AA35F. For the other two best practice payment levels, organisations will need to agree local reporting and payment processes. Providers that charge all three payment levels via a local dataset will need to provide assurance to commissioners that they are not coding to OPCS-4 code X833 as well. There are a variety of approaches being used locally to support reimbursement for the use of alteplase.
25. SSNAP<sup>15</sup> is the single source of stroke data nationally. It is a useful source of information and support for organisations in establishing these processes, including validation of BPT achievement. Contribution to national clinical audits should be considered a characteristic of best practice for providers of high quality stroke care, although it is not a criterion for the BPT.
26. Commissioners will be aware of different models for delivering high quality stroke care. While a few hyperacute units have been identified to admit all acute stroke patients, other units will provide high quality stroke care but not

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<sup>13</sup> [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta264?unlid=2021569132016428837](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta264?unlid=2021569132016428837)

<sup>14</sup> The additional payment covers the cost of the drugs, the additional cost of nurse input and the cost of the follow-on brain scan.

<sup>15</sup> [www.strokeaudit.org/](http://www.strokeaudit.org/)

qualify for the element of the BPT relating to timely scanning (nor the additional payment for thrombolysis) because they admit patients who are further along the stroke care pathway. However, all acute providers of stroke care should be able to meet the requirement of direct admission to a stroke unit and so qualify for the corresponding incentive payment.

27. One BPT scenario is that patients are admitted directly to an acute stroke unit either by the ambulance service, from A&E or via brain imaging. To qualify, acute stroke units must meet all the markers of a quality service set out in the National Stroke Strategy<sup>16</sup> quality marker 9. These markers are that:

- a) all stroke patients have prompt access to an acute stroke unit and spend most of their time in hospital in a stroke unit with high quality specialist care
- b) hyperacute stroke services provide, as a minimum, 24-hour access to brain imaging, expert interpretation and the opinion of a consultant stroke specialist, and thrombolysis is given to those who can benefit
- c) specialist neuro-intensivist care, including interventional neuroradiology or neurosurgery expertise, is rapidly available
- d) specialist nursing is available for monitoring patients
- e) appropriately qualified clinicians are available to address respiratory, swallowing, dietary and communication issues.

28. Where a patient has been assessed in A&E and identified as suitable for mechanical thrombectomy treatment, they should be transferred without delay to a specialist centre for treatment. Where the specialist centre for mechanical thrombectomy is separate from the A&E department the patient was first seen, transfer will not trigger an AA35\* HRG and so the spell of care will not be eligible for a BPT. Where this happens, we recommend considering payment by local agreement by the clinical commissioning group (CCG) to the A&E provider for the scan and alteplase element of the pathway, using the prices published as part of the BPT as a guideline.

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[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130105121530/http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_081059.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130105121530/http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_081059.pdf)

# 3 Adult renal dialysis

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2011/12 (vascular access for haemodialysis)	2012/13	Incentives for home therapies

29. This BPT covers haemodialysis, home haemodialysis and dialysis away from base only. However, for completeness Table 3 shows all the currencies for adult renal dialysis. The BPT only applies to adult patients with chronic kidney disease<sup>17</sup> and not those with acute kidney injury.<sup>18</sup>

**Table 3: Adult renal dialysis currencies**

Dialysis modality and setting	Basis of payment
Haemodialysis	Per session
Home haemodialysis	Per week
Peritoneal dialysis and assisted automated peritoneal dialysis (aAPD)	Per day
Dialysis away from base	Per session

30. Contribution to national clinical audits should be considered a characteristic of good practice for providers of high quality renal dialysis care, though it is not a BPT criterion.

## 3.1 Haemodialysis

31. The aim of the BPT for haemodialysis is to encourage the adoption of clinical best practice for vascular access where there is clear clinical consensus, as described in these guidelines and standards:

- Renal Association guidelines – Vascular access for haemodialysis<sup>19</sup>
- Vascular Society and Renal Association joint guidelines

<sup>17</sup> For payment purposes, organisations should distinguish patients starting renal replacement therapy on chronic and acute dialysis on the basis of clinical judgement in the same way that they do for returns to the UK Renal Registry.

<sup>18</sup> Principally this is because acute renal failure is excluded from the scope of the National Renal Dataset for detailed data collection.

<sup>19</sup> The Renal Association (2015). Guidelines: *Vascular access for haemodialysis*. Available from <https://renal.org/guidelines/>

- National Service Framework (NSF) for renal services (standard 3).<sup>20</sup>
32. The ideal form of vascular access should be safe and efficient and provide effective therapy. A native arteriovenous fistula is widely regarded as the optimal form of vascular access for patients undergoing haemodialysis. The presence of a mature arteriovenous fistula at the time of first haemodialysis reduces patient stress and minimises the risk of morbidity associated with temporary vascular access placement as well as the risk of infection.
  33. If an arteriovenous fistula cannot be fashioned, an acceptable alternative form of definitive access is an arteriovenous graft which involves surgically joining an artery and vein using an artificial graft, usually polytetrafluoroethylene.
  34. The advantages of a native arteriovenous fistula over other forms of access which risk infection and thrombotic complications are significant. Dialysis via a fistula will also provide the option of higher blood flows during the procedure, resulting in more efficient dialysis.
  35. The Renal Association guidelines state an audit standard<sup>21</sup> of 85% of patients on haemodialysis receiving dialysis via a functioning arteriovenous fistula. The BPT is based on providers achieving a rate of 80%, although providers should continue to work towards the 85% rate.
  36. The BPT requires vascular access to be gained via a functioning arteriovenous fistula. Therefore, renal units will need to collaborate with surgical services to establish processes that facilitate timely referral for vascular access.

## 3.2 Home haemodialysis

37. The aim of unit prices for home haemodialysis is to make home haemodialysis a real choice for patients. The BPT price and structure include incentives for both providers and commissioners to offer home haemodialysis to all patients who are suitable.
38. The BPT price for home haemodialysis reflects a week of dialysis, irrespective of the number of dialysis sessions prescribed. Providers and commissioners

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<sup>20</sup> Information about the NSF can be found at:  
[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_4102680.pdf](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_4102680.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> See <https://renal.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/vascular-access.pdf>

should have sensible auditing arrangements to ensure that home haemodialysis is at least as effective as that provided in hospital.

39. It is expected that the BPT price will cover the direct costs of dialysis as well as the associated set-up, removal and utility costs incurred by the provider (eg preparation of patients' homes, equipment and training).

### 3.3 Dialysis away from base (satellite dialysis)

40. A review of funding for dialysis away from base found that there may be associated additional costs. However, because the reference costs include these additional costs, the BPT price should adequately fund, on average, providers dialysing a mix of regular and away-from-base patients. Nevertheless, in recognition of the importance to patients of being able to dialyse away from base, and given that some providers will have a significantly disproportionate mix of patients, local payment arrangements may be agreed as follows:
  41. For all patients who require haemodialysis away from base, providers may be paid the arteriovenous fistula or graft BPT price,<sup>22</sup> with the local arrangements then providing for any additional payments.
  42. Commissioners have the flexibility to pay above the unit price to providers who face significantly high proportions of patients who require dialysis away from base. The appropriate additional level of reimbursement and the proportion of dialysis away from base are for local negotiation between commissioners and providers. As a guide, we would expect that a significant proportion of dialysis away from base is around 85% to 90% of a provider's total activity.

### 3.4 Operational

43. The unit prices in this document apply at HRG level. The HRGs and prices are set out in Annex A. Commissioners will pay based on the HRGs in Annex A and validate this via local data flows.
44. Patients with chronic kidney disease attending solely for a dialysis session are not required to be submitted as part of the admitted patient care or outpatient commissioning dataset (CDS) (in line with the processing adjustment) because the activity data is recorded in the National Renal Dataset (NRD) and reported

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<sup>22</sup> Applicable HRGs are LD05A, LD06A, LD07A and LD08A.



locally. For patients attending solely for a dialysis session, any activity submitted to the CDS should not be used for payment purposes. Any activity submitted to SUS+ should derive LA97A (Same day dialysis admission or attendance, 19 years and over) and will generate a zero price.

45. The HRGs are generated from data items in the NRD. Commissioners must include, as a minimum, the data items listed in Table 4 in information schedules of NHS contracts where these services are provided.

**Table 4: National Renal Dataset fields**

Area	Field
Renal care	[1] renal treatment modality, eg haemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis [6] renal treatment supervision code, eg home, hospital
Person observation	[75] blood test HBV surface antigen [77] blood test HCV antibody [79] blood test HIV Demographics [19] PCT organisation code <sup>23</sup>
Dialysis	[182] type of dialysis access, eg fistula [23] dialysis times per week
Organisations will also need to derive:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a unique patient identifier</li> <li>• patient age (in years derived from date of session – date of birth)</li> </ul>

46. The reporting process for renal dialysis will differ from other services. The data items defined in the NRD are not contained in the CDS and do not flow into SUS+. We therefore expect organisations to implement local reporting while we continue to work towards a national solution. The local payment grouper will support local processes in generating HRGs from the relevant data items extracted from local systems.
47. The HRGs in sub-chapter LD are core HRGs.
48. Reporting and reimbursement for acute kidney injury will need to be agreed locally. Annex B of the 2021/22 NTPS details the currencies without unit prices for haemodialysis for acute kidney injury that may be used for this purpose.

<sup>23</sup> CCG code will now be recorded in this field.



49. If a patient with acute kidney injury requires dialysis while in hospital during an unrelated spell, the dialysis price is payable in addition to the price for the core spell.
50. Due to the variation in funding and prescription practices across the country, the BPT price for renal dialysis is not for funding the following drugs:
  - erythropoiesis-stimulating agents: darbepoetin alfa, epoetin alfa, beta (including methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta), theta and zeta
  - drugs for mineral bone disorders: cinacalcet, sevelamer, lanthanum paracalcitol and sucroferric oxyhydroxide.
51. Organisations should continue with current funding arrangements for these drugs when used in renal dialysis or outpatient attendances in nephrology (TFC 361). For all other uses, the relevant BPT prices reimburse the associated costs of the drugs.
52. Patients with iron deficiency anaemia of chronic kidney disease will require iron supplementation. For patients on haemodialysis, the prices cover the costs of intravenous iron. For patients, either on peritoneal dialysis or otherwise, the costs will be reimbursed through the appropriate unit price, either in outpatients or admitted patient care, depending on the type of drug and method of administration (slow infusion or intravenous).

## 4 Adult asthma – aged 19 and over

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2020/21		

### 4.1 Purpose

53. Asthma is a disease characterised by recurrent attacks of breathlessness and wheezing, which vary in severity and frequency from person to person. In an individual, they may occur from hour to hour and day to day. This condition is due to inflammation of the air passages in the lungs and affects the sensitivity of the nerve endings in the airways so they become easily irritated. In an attack, the lining of the passages swell, causing the airways to narrow and reducing the flow of air in and out of the lungs.
54. We have introduced the adult asthma BPT to improve the proportion of patients who receive specialist review<sup>24</sup> of their care within 24 hours of emergency admission for asthma attack and who also receive a discharge bundle before leaving hospital.
55. Specialist input has been shown to improve outcomes, as well as adherence to evidence-based care processes in managing adult asthma patients. However, as of 2019/20, at 50% of providers, fewer than 25% of patients receive a discharge bundle and specialist care within 24 hours of admission.<sup>25</sup>

### 4.2 Design and criteria

56. For the HRGs that fall in the scope of the BPT, as described in Annex A, there are two prices: a base price and a BPT price. The base price would be set at 90% of the BPT price.

<sup>24</sup> Specialist review: *Respiratory specialist team members may be defined locally to include respiratory health professionals deemed competent at seeing and managing patients with acute asthma attacks.*

*These staff members might include: respiratory consultant, respiratory trainee of ST3 or above, respiratory specialist nurse or asthma nurse.*

<sup>25</sup> NACAP audit report for adult asthma: [www.nacap.org.uk/nacap/welcome.nsf/reportsAA.html](http://www.nacap.org.uk/nacap/welcome.nsf/reportsAA.html)

57. To qualify for the BPT, 50% of patients must receive specialist input within 24 hours of admission **and** a discharge bundle before discharge (that is, one patient needs to receive both care processes to achieve the criteria).

### 4.3 Operational

58. The eligible HRGs for the BPT are made up of two components: a base price and a BPT price (based on a conditional top-up payment added to the base price). The base price is payable for activity irrespective of meeting best practice characteristics. The BPT price (set higher than the base price) is payable only if all the criteria or the characteristics of best practice delivery of care are achieved.
59. The BPT applies at the HRG level for all relevant non-elective admissions. The base price is generated by the grouper and SUS+, where the spell meets these criteria:
- patient aged 19 or over (on admission)
  - non-elective admissions
  - HRG from the list in Annex A.
60. Where satisfied that providers have achieved the best practice criteria, commissioners should make payment to providers using the BPT price as specified in Annex A.
61. Compliance with the BPT criteria would be measured by the National Asthma & COPD Audit Programme.<sup>26</sup> The national audit will produce at least a quarterly report showing the provider-level achievement against the BPT criteria, which will be available to both commissioners and providers.
62. For the purposes of measuring compliance with the BPT,<sup>27</sup> the definitions of 'specialist review' and 'discharge bundle' are the same as those used by the National Asthma & COPD Audit:
- **Specialty review within 24hrs of admission** – Respiratory team members, as agreed by the British Thoracic Society membership, may be defined locally to include respiratory health professionals deemed competent at seeing and managing patients with acute asthma attack. These staff

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<sup>26</sup> [www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/national-copd-audit-programme-secondary-care-workstream](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/national-copd-audit-programme-secondary-care-workstream)  
<sup>27</sup> BPT compliance: Patients with a date of death recorded in the audit will be excluded.

members might include respiratory consultant, respiratory trainee of ST3 or above, respiratory specialist nurse/specific asthma nurse or physiotherapist.

- A discharge bundle is a group of evidence-based items that should be implemented/checked and verified on discharge from hospital. The adult asthma discharge bundle must include the three mandatory items listed below. The two additional elements are also recommended but their inclusion is not mandatory:
  - *Mandatory:* Personalised action plan issued or reviewed
  - *Mandatory:* Inhaler technique (including maintenance medication review)
  - *Mandatory:* Smoking cessation advice, referral or support
  - Asthma triggers where relevant
  - Specialist review requested within 4 weeks of discharge.

63. Evidence of the discharge bundle must be in the case record and in the discharge summary.<sup>28</sup>
64. While not currently a specified element of the discharge bundle, providers should review both preventer and reliever inhaler technique with consideration given to using the lowest environmental impact inhaler device.

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<sup>28</sup> BTS/SIGN British Guideline on the Management of Asthma: [www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/quality-improvement/guidelines/asthma/](http://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/quality-improvement/guidelines/asthma/)  
An example asthma care bundle sheet is also available at: [www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/quality-improvement/clinical-resources/asthma/](http://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/quality-improvement/clinical-resources/asthma/)

# 5 Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2017/19	2020/21	Guidance updated to include consideration of environmental impact of inhaler device

## 5.1 Purpose

65. COPD is a long-term respiratory condition characterised by airflow obstruction that is not fully reversible. People with COPD often have exacerbations, when there is rapid and sustained worsening of symptoms beyond their usual day-to-day variation.
66. In 2017/19 we introduced the COPD BPT to improve the proportion of patients who receive specialist review of their care within 24 hours of emergency admission for an exacerbation of COPD and who also receive a discharge bundle before leaving hospital.
67. Specialist input has been shown to improve outcomes as well as the adherence to evidence-based care processes in managing COPD exacerbations. However, only 65% of people admitted to secondary care receive specialist input to their care within 24 hours of admission.
68. Patients who receive discharge bundles are more likely to receive better care than those who do not receive discharge bundles. However, only 69% of providers report using discharge bundles.

## 5.2 Design and criteria

69. For the relevant list of HRGs that fall in the scope of the BPT, as described in Annex A, there are two prices: a base price and a BPT price. The base price is set at 90% of the BPT price.
70. To qualify for the BPT, 60% of patients must receive specialist input within 24 hours of admission **and** a discharge bundle before discharge (that is, one

patient needs to receive both care processes to be a success against the criteria).

## 5.3 Operational

71. The eligible HRGs for the BPT are made up of two components: a base price and a BPT price (based on a conditional top-up payment added to the base price). The base price is payable for activity irrespective of meeting best practice characteristics. The BPT price (set higher than the base price) is payable only if all the criteria are achieved.
72. The BPT applies at the HRG level for all relevant non-elective admissions. The base price is generated by the grouper and SUS+, where the spell meets these criteria:
- patient aged 19 or over (on admission)
  - non-elective admissions
  - HRG from the list in Annex A.
73. Where satisfied that providers have achieved the best practice criteria, commissioners should make payment to providers using the BPT price specified in Annex A.
74. Compliance with the BPT criteria is measured by the National COPD Audit Programme's secondary care audit.<sup>29</sup> The national audit will produce at least a quarterly report showing the provider-level achievement against the BPT criteria, which will be available to both commissioners and providers.
75. For the purposes of measuring compliance with the BPT,<sup>30</sup> the definitions of 'specialist review' and 'discharge bundle' are the same as those used by the National COPD Audit Programme's secondary care audit:
- Respiratory team members, as agreed by the British Thoracic Society membership, may be defined locally to include respiratory health professionals deemed competent at seeing and managing patients with acute exacerbation of COPD. These staff members might include respiratory consultant, respiratory trainee of ST3 or above, respiratory specialist nurse or physiotherapist, COPD nurse.

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<sup>29</sup> [www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/national-copd-audit-programme-secondary-care-workstream](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/national-copd-audit-programme-secondary-care-workstream)  
<sup>30</sup> BPT compliance: Patients with a date of death recorded in the audit will be excluded.

## Classification: Official

- A discharge bundle is a group of evidence-based items that should be implemented/checked and verified on discharge from hospital. The discharge bundle should cover the following:
    - understanding medication and inhaler use
    - self-management/emergency drug pack
    - smoking cessation
    - referral to pulmonary rehabilitation if appropriate and
    - timely follow-up.
  - Evidence of the discharge bundle must be found in the case record and the discharge summary.
76. While not currently a specified element of the discharge bundle, providers should review both preventer and reliever inhaler technique with consideration given to using the lowest environmental impact inhaler device.

# 6 Diabetic ketoacidosis or hypoglycaemia

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2013/14		

## 6.1 Purpose

77. Diabetic ketoacidosis remains a common and life-threatening complication of Type 1 diabetes. Errors in its management are not uncommon and are associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Admitting, treating and discharging patients with diabetic ketoacidosis or hypoglycaemia without involving a diabetes specialist team could compromise safe patient care.
78. The aim of this BPT is to ensure the involvement of a diabetes specialist team and patient access to a structured education programme. The involvement of a diabetes specialist team shortens patient stay and improves safety; it should occur as soon as possible during the acute phase. The main benefit of a structured education programme is reduced admission rates.
79. Specialists must also be involved in assessing the precipitating cause of diabetic ketoacidosis or hypoglycaemia, managing the condition, discharge and follow-up. This includes assessing the patient's understanding of diabetes plus their attitudes and beliefs.

## 6.2 Design and criteria

80. The BPT applies only to adults admitted as an emergency with diabetic ketoacidosis or hypoglycaemia. It is made up of two components: a base price and a BPT price (based on a conditional top-up payment added to the base price). The base price is payable for all activity irrespective of whether it meets best practice. The BPT price is payable if the patient:
- is referred to the diabetes specialist team (DST) on admission, and seen within 24 hours by a DST member



## Classification: Official

- has an education review by a DST member before discharge<sup>31</sup>
  - is seen by a diabetologist or diabetic specialist nurse before discharge
  - is discharged with a written care plan (which allows the person with diabetes to be actively involved in deciding, agreeing and taking responsibility for how their diabetes is managed) that is copied to their GP
  - is offered access to structured education, with the first appointment scheduled to take place within three months of discharge.<sup>32</sup>
81. Access to structured education, and waiting lists for it, vary across the country. Structured education should be delivered in line with the Diabetes UK care recommendation, 'Education of people with diabetes'.<sup>33</sup>
82. The BPT excludes reimbursement for the structured education so arrangements for this will need to be agreed locally. There is a treatment function code (TFC) for diabetic education services (TFC 920) against which organisations should record and cost activity.
83. The evidence base and characteristics of best practice have been informed by and are in line with:
- NICE *Diabetes in adults quality standard* (2011);<sup>34</sup> NICE clinical guideline CG15 *Diagnosis and management of type 1 diabetes in children, young people and adults*<sup>35</sup>
  - NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement's Think Glucose Project; Diabetes UK and Joint British Diabetes Societies (JBDS) Inpatient Care Group guidance *The management of diabetic ketoacidosis in adults*
  - Diabetes UK and JBDS Inpatient Care Group guidance *The hospital management of hypoglycaemia in adults with diabetes mellitus*.

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<sup>31</sup> In some circumstances, not all elements of the review apply (eg injection issues that would be irrelevant to people who are not taking insulin (such as those taking oral medication) and ketone monitoring that is only required for individuals with Type 1 diabetes). **Review to include:** usual glycaemic control; injection technique/blood glucose; monitoring/equipment/sites; discussion of sick day rules; assessment of the need for home ketone testing (blood or urinary) with education to enable this; and contact telephone numbers for the DST including out of hours.

<sup>32</sup> It is accepted that in some circumstances structured education may not be appropriate for patients (for example, elderly people with dementia or living in care homes). Where this is the case, structured education can be excluded from the criteria.

<sup>33</sup> Information on diabetes education is available at [www.diabetes.org.uk/Guide-to-diabetes/Managing-your-diabetes/Education/](http://www.diabetes.org.uk/Guide-to-diabetes/Managing-your-diabetes/Education/)

<sup>34</sup> <http://guidance.nice.org.uk/QS6>

<sup>35</sup> [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng17](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng17)

## 6.3 Operational

84. The BPT applies at the sub-HRG level ('flag BP52'), and SUS+ will apply the base price to spells with a BPT flag only (the conventional price will otherwise be applied). SUS+ will not apply the conditional top-up payment, and compliance with the characteristics of best practice will need to be monitored and validated through local data flows. Where satisfied that providers have achieved the best practice criteria, commissioners should make manual adjustments to the base price by applying the conditional top-up payment.
85. The BPT flag is generated by the grouper and SUS+, where the spell meets these criteria:
- patient aged 19 or over (on admission)
  - emergency admission method (codes 21–25, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D [or 28 if the provider has not implemented CDS 6.2])
  - a diagnosis from the list in Annex A
  - one of the HRGs from the list in Annex A.
86. Where providers do not meet best practice, commissioner expenditure will reduce. We expect commissioners will engage with providers to improve services.
87. The base price is set at 85% of the conventional HRG price, with the conditional component equal to the remaining 15%.

# 7 Early inflammatory arthritis

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2013/14	2019/20	Updated the BPT to a single conditional top-up covering the first three months of care only

## 7.1 Purpose

88. The BPT's aim is to ensure timely diagnosis and, where appropriate, start of therapy of patients with early inflammatory arthritis. The BPT has been developed with the British Society for Rheumatology and Arthritis Research UK and reflects NICE clinical guideline CG79, *Rheumatoid arthritis in adults: management*<sup>36</sup> and NICE quality standard 33.<sup>37</sup>
89. The *Rheumatoid and Early Inflammatory Arthritis 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report 2016*<sup>38</sup> highlights the ongoing variation in care across England and Wales.
90. In 2019/20 we updated the BPT to link achievement to six standards of care reported through the national clinical audit for rheumatoid and early inflammatory arthritis.<sup>39</sup> For patients who receive care as set out in the BPT, the provider will be eligible for a single conditional top-up payment per patient.

## 7.2 Design and criteria

91. The BPT applies only when care meets all six standards in Table 9 and applies to the first three months of care for newly referred patients.

**Table 9: Early inflammatory arthritis BPT: six standards of care**

BPT criteria		
1	<b>Referral</b>	The patient must be seen within three weeks of referral
2	<b>Audit</b>	The patient must be enrolled in the audit within 3 weeks of diagnosis
3	<b>Drug therapy</b>	The patient must start disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) within six weeks of referral

<sup>36</sup> [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg79](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg79)

<sup>37</sup> [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs33](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs33)

<sup>38</sup> [www.hqip.org.uk/resources/rheumatoid-and-early-inflammatory-arthritis-2016/](http://www.hqip.org.uk/resources/rheumatoid-and-early-inflammatory-arthritis-2016/)

<sup>39</sup> [www.rheumatology.org.uk/practice-quality/audits/neiaa](http://www.rheumatology.org.uk/practice-quality/audits/neiaa)

BPT criteria		
4	<b>Education</b>	The patient must be offered disease education within one month of diagnosis
5	<b>Disease outcomes</b>	The patient must have a documented disease activity score (DAS) by three months.  This should be documented in the audit.
6	<b>Disease outcomes</b>	The patient must have a documented patient reported outcome (PRO) by three months.  This should be documented in the audit.
<i>Data upload to the national clinical audit must take place within four weeks of the specific time point for each criterion.</i>		

92. For patients with inflammatory arthritis, a decision to start DMARD therapy should almost always be possible within six weeks of GP referral where inflammatory synovitis is sustained at specialist review.
93. Current classification criteria for early inflammatory arthritis do not specify a minimum duration of disease but do assign a single point (out of 10 possible) for duration of six weeks or more. The hypothetical case of a patient presenting to their GP on their first day of symptoms and being referred the same day would be quite exceptional given the insidious onset of symptoms. Even in that situation, there would be six weeks of joint inflammation by the time DMARD initiation is suggested.
94. There are substantial proven benefits of DMARD initiation within 12 weeks of symptom onset. To enable this, GPs should continue to develop and follow local guidance for referral to ensure that patients with suspected early inflammatory arthritis are referred within a maximum of six weeks of symptom onset.
95. Given that urgent, intensive DMARD treatment might potentially transform outcomes for people with inflammatory arthritis by inducing remission and preventing disability, as well as reducing the need for subsequent biological therapies, Arthritis Research UK and the British Society for Rheumatology support this suggested six-week timeframe for specialist review and initiation of DMARD therapy.

## 7.3 Operational

96. The BPT aims to provide an incentive for timely treatment and cover additional costs related to audit compliance for the first three months of care only.
97. The BPT is a single conditional top-up payment payable for each newly referred patient who receives all six characteristics of best practice.
98. Where satisfied that providers have achieved the best practice criteria, commissioners should make manual adjustments by applying the conditional top-up payment for each newly referred patient who received all six standards of care.
99. Compliance with the BPT criteria will be measured by the national clinical audit for early inflammatory arthritis.<sup>40</sup> The national audit will produce at least a quarterly report, showing CCG and provider-level achievement levels (number of patients). This will be available to both commissioners and providers.
100. Providers paid on a priced activity basis will continue to be paid the relevant unit price or locally agreed prices for all relevant activity.
101. SUS+ will not apply the conditional top-up.
102. Providers will not be able to claim the conditional top-up for patients who do not receive all six standards of care.
103. In future iterations of the national tariff we intend to consider the first full year of care.

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<sup>40</sup> [www.rheumatology.org.uk/](http://www.rheumatology.org.uk/)

# 8 Emergency laparotomy

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2019/20		

## 8.1 Purpose

104. 'Emergency laparotomy' and 'emergency bowel surgery' are terms used to describe a wide range of emergency operations on the bowel. These may be performed for a variety of conditions, including those arising from complications of elective (planned) surgery. In England alone, approximately 30,000 emergency laparotomies are undertaken annually on a heterogeneous cohort of patients. Overall, 30-day mortality has fallen from 11.8% in 2013/14 to 10.6% in 2015/16. However, emergency laparotomy surgery remains high risk when compared to elective surgery, and outcomes have continued to vary according to the type of surgery performed and the circumstances in which it is performed.

105. This BPT aims to improve the proportion of high-risk patients who receive both:

- surgery under the direct supervision of a consultant surgeon and consultant anaesthetist
- critical care admission.

106. Patients should expect to receive consultant-delivered care when they are undergoing high-risk surgery, such as emergency laparotomy. This principle is generally adhered to in the provision of elective care and is equally applicable to emergency surgery. Consultant expertise is required for the complex and individualised management of patients, both before and during their surgery. The management of patients during emergency bowel surgery can be challenging and experience is required for the complex decision-making required to identify and deliver the next steps in care.

107. Critical care provides patients with advanced treatments and organ support that are not possible on ordinary wards. These treatments are frequently required by patients having emergency bowel surgery. Evidence shows that more patients die if they are initially cared for after surgery on a general ward and then subsequently require treatment in a critical care unit than if they are transferred directly to a critical care unit. Standards state that clinicians should

assess risk for all patients before surgery to identify high-risk individuals who need to be cared for on a critical care unit, and to ensure that they are transferred there directly after surgery.

108. The *Third Patient Report of the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit* (NELA)<sup>41</sup> shows that 79% of high-risk patients had surgery that was directly supervised by a consultant surgeon and a consultant anaesthetist and 80% of high-risk patients were transferred directly to a critical care unit from theatre. However, when these two metrics are combined as a bundle of care, only 67% of patients received both elements.

## 8.2 Design and criteria

109. For the relevant list of HRGs that fall in the scope of the BPT, as described in Annex A, there are two prices: a base price and a BPT price (based on a conditional top-up payment added to the base price). The base price is set at 90% of the BPT price.
110. As a precondition of accessing the BPT, providers must have agreed trust-wide multidisciplinary pathways of care in place, as defined by the audit. These must be recorded in the audit as evidence of compliance. The pathways will need to have been agreed by key multidisciplinary stakeholders within the provider involved in delivering care. These include emergency departments, elderly care, radiology, surgery, anaesthesia and critical care. As a minimum, these pathways should cover a diagnostic pathway for the acute abdomen (before a decision for surgery has been made) and a laparotomy pathway (at the point surgery is needed).
111. To qualify for the BPT, 80% of applicable patients (as reported by the audit) must receive both:
- **consultant presence:** measured by proportion of high-risk patients for whom surgery was directly supervised by both a consultant surgeon and a consultant anaesthetist (as defined by the audit).
  - **critical care admission:** measured by proportion of high-risk patients (as defined by the audit) who were transferred directly to a critical care unit from theatre.

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<sup>41</sup> [www.nela.org.uk/reports](http://www.nela.org.uk/reports)

112. Although not a condition of payment, providers and commissioners should monitor case ascertainment to ensure that participation in the audit is sufficient for activity captured and reported by NELA to be an adequate reflection of provider activity. The NELA project team has developed an algorithm that extracts cases that meet the NELA inclusion criteria from Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). HES is comprised of patient data coded by the hospital's own coding team. Historical case ascertainment is calculated by applying this case inclusion algorithm to HES data. Case ascertainment can be monitored via the NELA website.<sup>42</sup>

## 8.3 Operational

113. The BPT payment is made up of two components: a base price and a BPT price (based on a conditional top-up payment added to the base price). The base price is payable to all activity irrespective of meeting best practice characteristics. The BPT price is payable only if all the characteristics of best practice are achieved.

114. The BPT payment applies at the HRG level for all relevant non-elective admissions. The base price is generated by the grouper and SUS+, where the spell meets these criteria:

- patient aged 19 or over (on admission)
- non-elective admission (including transfers)
- HRG from the list in Annex A.

115. Where satisfied that providers have achieved the best practice criteria, as defined by the audit, commissioners should make manual adjustments to the base price by applying the conditional top-up payment.

116. Compliance with the BPT criteria will be measured by the NELA.<sup>43</sup> The national audit will produce at least a quarterly report, showing the provider-level achievement against the BPT criteria, which will be available to both commissioners and providers. This will include both the precondition and conditional elements of the BPT.

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<sup>42</sup> [www.nela.org.uk/Case-Ascertainment-Queries](http://www.nela.org.uk/Case-Ascertainment-Queries)  
<sup>43</sup> [www.nela.org.uk/](http://www.nela.org.uk/)



117. For the purposes of measuring compliance with the BPT, the definitions of 'consultant presence' and 'critical care admission' are the same as those used by NELA.
118. NELA measures achievement at provider, not patient, level. Therefore, providers who achieve the BPT are eligible to receive the conditional top-up from every commissioner that has a patient admitted (for the listed HRGs in Annex A). Providers that do not achieve the criteria will not be eligible for the conditional top-up and will only be able to claim the base price for all activity within the period.
119. In the rare event a provider has no qualifying cases in the qualifying period, for the purposes of the BPT the audit will report activity at zero and compliance at 100%. This ensures that the provider will continue to receive the conditional top-up on the basis of making resources available.

## 9 Endoscopy procedures

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2013/14	2016/17	Changed from a two-tier to a three-tier payment system so that only level 1 accredited units will receive the BPT.
	2020/21	Revision of JAG accreditation level descriptions to reflect JAG accreditation updates.

### 9.1 Purpose

120. The aim of this BPT is to provide a financial incentive to promote improved and consistent standards across endoscopy services.
121. Award of accreditation by the Joint Advisory Group on GI Endoscopy (JAG) provides assurance that an endoscopy service is delivering high-quality, safe and effective care for patients, as well as supporting the endoscopy workforce and providing a suitable training environment. Eligibility for accreditation requires satisfactory scores in the Global Rating Scale and is awarded after submission of written evidence and a site visit by a professional team of peer assessors.

### 9.2 Design and criteria

122. The BPT applies to adults only for elective endoscopic procedures in all NHS providers (including community organisations) and independent sector providers. The BPT will apply at the HRG level to all relevant day-case, elective and outpatient procedure activity that has a unit price.
123. For the BPT, JAG provides three levels of site accreditation, shown in Table 10 below.

**Table 10: JAG accreditation levels**

Level	Description
Level 1	Units have met the necessary standard for full JAG accreditation or the unit is undergoing a reaccreditation assessment
Level 2	Units have been assessed as improvements required or are in a period of accreditation award deferral. However, they have provided evidence to JAG of progress in addressing issues and will be reassessed within a specified timeframe
Level 3	Units have been assessed as not meeting the minimum standard, are not accredited, and units undergoing assessment (not currently accredited) or are not participating in the JAG accreditation scheme,

124. Only providers achieving level 1 accreditation will be reimbursed at the full BPT rate. Providers at level 2 will receive a price 2.5% below the BPT level and providers at level 3 will receive a price 5% below the BPT level.
125. The status of providers is defined by JAG, available on its website<sup>44</sup> and updated monthly.

## 9.3 Operational

126. SUS+ will automate payment of the endoscopy BPT by applying the full (level 1) BPT price to the HRG. Commissioners will need to reclaim any overpayments from providers not achieving level 1 of the accreditation scheme. Commissioners must ensure that they reflect any changes to providers' status in-year.
127. Information on the JAG website is at site rather than organisation level. Where a provider has sites of mixed status, commissioners must apply the BPT at site level where they are able to do so. Otherwise organisations will need to agree the appropriate reduction that reflects the service provision across the provider. If agreement cannot be reached, we suggest that payments are reduced in proportion to the number of sites that are not engaged.
128. Where providers do not attain level 1 accreditation, commissioner expenditure will reduce. We expect commissioners will engage with providers to improve services and adherence to JAG standards.

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<sup>44</sup> [www.thejag.org.uk/xls/DataTable.aspx?Type=BPT&PageId=50](http://www.thejag.org.uk/xls/DataTable.aspx?Type=BPT&PageId=50)

# 10 Fragility hip and femur fracture

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2010/11	2011/12	Increased price differential.
	2012/13	Further increase in price differential and expansion of best practice characteristics.
	2017/19	Three measures removed from the existing BPT and three new measures added.
	2020/21	Extension of cohort to include distal femur and femoral fragility fractures.

## 10.1 Purpose

129. For patients with a fragility hip or femoral fractures, care needs to be quickly and carefully organised to prepare them for surgery. The most positive outcomes can be achieved by quickly stabilising patients and ensuring that expert clinical teams respond to their frail conditions and complex needs. Equally, the care that these patients receive following surgery is just as important, because it is in the initial days following surgery that the greatest gains can be made in patient outcomes.
130. The aim of the BPT is to promote hip and femoral fracture programmes that provide best practice in the care and secondary prevention of fragility hip and femur fractures in line with the clinical guideline and quality standard from NICE (CG124 and QS16). For 2017/19 we removed three measures relating to the joint admissions protocol, multidisciplinary teamworking and post-op abbreviated mental test and replaced them with three new measures (items e, f and g in the list below).

## 10.2 Design and criteria

131. The BPT is made up of two components: a base price and a BPT price (based on a conditional top-up payment added to the base price). The base price is payable for activity irrespective of whether the characteristics of best practice are met. The BPT price is payable only if all these characteristics are achieved:
- a) time to surgery from arrival in an emergency department, or – if an admitted patient – time of diagnosis to the start of anaesthesia, is within 36 hours

- b) assessment by a geriatrician<sup>45</sup> in the perioperative period (within 72 hours of admission)
  - c) fracture prevention assessments (falls and bone health)
  - d) an abbreviated mental test performed before surgery and the score recorded in National Hip Fracture Database (NHFD)<sup>46</sup>
  - e) a nutritional assessment during the admission
  - f) a delirium assessment using the 4AT screening tool during the admission
  - g) assessed by a physiotherapist the day of or day following surgery.
132. This design provides additional per patient funding to meet the anticipated costs of delivering best practice and creates an incentive for providers to deliver best practice care.
- ## 10.3 Operational
133. The base price and the BPT price apply at the sub-HRG level ('flag BP01'). The BPT flag is generated by the grouper and SUS+, where the spell meets these criteria:
- a) patient aged 60 or older (on admission)
  - b) emergency, or transfer admission method (admission codes 21-25, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D [or 28 if the provider has not implemented CDS 6.2] and 81)
  - c) a diagnosis and procedure code (in any position) from the list in Annex A
  - d) HRG from the list in Annex A.
134. SUS+ will apply the base price to spells with the BPT flag. Where satisfied that providers have achieved the best practice criteria, commissioners should make manual adjustments to the base price by applying the conditional top-up payment.
135. Commissioners determine compliance with best practice using reports compiled from data submitted by providers to the NHFD. The report is available

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<sup>45</sup> 'Geriatrician' is defined as consultant, non-consultant career grade (NCCG) or specialist trainee ST3+.

<sup>46</sup> It is expected that a reduced abbreviated mental test score of 7 or below would trigger a dementia risk assessment by dementia-trained staff, the outcome of which would inform appropriate discharge and follow-up arrangements.

quarterly in line with the SUS+ reporting timetable:<sup>47</sup> for example, the report for the April to June quarter will be available at the final reconciliation date. The additional best practice payment is therefore paid quarterly in arrears, with the base price paid as normal. Payment arrangements for NHFD records entered or completed outside the agreed timeframe must be negotiated locally.

136. Providers already have access to the NHFD through a lead clinician who is responsible for ensuring the quality and integrity of the data.
137. Commissioners may receive reports of NHFD data in one of two ways:
- a) commissioners nominate a data representative with an NHS email account to register to access the NHFD website;<sup>48</sup> aggregated (anonymised) provider-level data will be provided in tabular, online reports
  - b) NHS Digital, through its Data Services for Commissioners Regional Offices (DSCROs), will support the provision of data and analysis to underpin and provide evidence for best practice payments and validation with SUS+. The exact process should be negotiated locally.
138. NHFD is currently the only source of data relevant to the BPT criteria collected on a regular basis, with professional clinical oversight. Further information on best practice is available from the NHFD website including advice on:
- a) improving clinical care and secondary prevention
  - b) service organisation
  - c) how to make a case for the posts and resources necessary for the delivery of high quality, cost-effective care.
139. The pricing approach is designed to incentivise a change in practice and provide additional funding per patient to adequately fund the costs of best practice.

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<sup>47</sup> Before the final reconciliation point, providers will be given two weeks from the end of the quarter to input and edit any outstanding records. NHS Digital will then match the records to responsible commissioners, which will take a further two weeks. Once the commissioner data is uploaded, providers will be given another two weeks to correct any problems or omissions. The final data will therefore be available to commissioners six weeks after the end of the quarter.

<sup>48</sup> [www.nhfd.co.uk/](http://www.nhfd.co.uk/)

## 10.4 Persistence with bone treatment after discharge

140. Following feedback from our engagement on the 2017/19 tariff proposals, we decided to defer the introduction of follow-up for persistence with bone treatment after discharge. We continue to recommend that providers collect this information.
141. Many patients who have a hip or femoral fractures require some form of medication to reduce the risk of further fractures. Current practice should ensure that patients are assessed and treatment started or recommended in hospital, but it is well recognised that long-term compliance is poor and patients often do not take the tablets. Telephone follow-up is effective and significantly increases the rate of long-term compliance with treatment. It should be noted that the requirement depends on the follow-up taking place and not on patient compliance with medication. We suggest that telephone appointments take place 120 days from the date of discharge and that the data are recorded in the NHFD.

# 11 Heart failure

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2016/17		Data submission to the national heart failure audit (NHFA) with a target rate of 70%. Specialist input with a target rate of 60%.

## 11.1 Purpose

142. The aim of this BPT is to support best practice in the care of patients with heart failure, as outlined in: NICE clinical guideline NG106 *Chronic heart failure in adults: diagnosis and management*,<sup>49</sup> clinical guideline CG187 *Acute heart failure: diagnosis and management*<sup>50</sup> and the chronic heart failure quality standard (QS9).<sup>51</sup>

## 11.2 Design and criteria

143. The payment of the BPT depends on providers meeting both these criteria:

- Data submission to the National Heart Failure Audit (NHFA) with a target rate of 70%. This means that at least 70% of all eligible records need to be submitted to NHFA.
- Specialist input with a target rate of 60%. This means that at least 60% of all patients recorded in the audit have received specialist input, as defined by NHFA.

144. The BPT price is higher than the standard HRG price to reflect higher costs that providers may incur in achieving best practice. Providers that do not meet both of the above criteria will be paid on the basis of the standard price, which is 10% below the BPT level.

## 11.3 Specialist input to the management of heart failure

145. Management of heart failure by cardiology and heart failure specialists results in better outcomes for patients. Not only is mortality reduced in hospital and in the month following discharge, but the quality of care received in hospital benefits patients for some years following discharge, reducing subsequent

<sup>49</sup> [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng106](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng106)

<sup>50</sup> [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg187](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg187)

<sup>51</sup> [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs9](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs9)



admissions.<sup>52</sup> Specialist input is also associated with patients receiving other evidence-based care processes.

146. NHFA defines specialist input as a face-to-face review with a consultant cardiologist, or a consultant with a subspecialist interest in heart failure, or a specialist registrar or a heart failure nurse specialist. This is the definition on which success against the BPT will be judged alongside the data submission rate. For clarity, this should exclude non-specific categories (for example, 'Other' or 'Unknown'). Providers should be able to show they have sufficient skill mix to provide specialist input for at least 60% of all non-elective heart failure admissions.
147. The threshold for specialist input has been set relatively low to enable providers to make progress in meeting best practice in the early years of full national implementation. We anticipate that expectations of best practice will be revised upwards in future.

## 11.4 Submission of data to NHFA

148. NHFA was established in 2007 to monitor the care and treatment of patients admitted to hospital in England and Wales with heart failure. It collects and reports data based on recommended clinical indicators and the outcomes of acute patients discharged from hospital with a primary diagnosis of heart failure. Further information can be found on the National Institute for Cardiovascular Outcomes Research (NICOR) website.<sup>53</sup>
149. Submitting data to NHFA will enable providers and commissioners to benchmark services, identify areas for improvement and monitor progress in improvements in the care of people with heart failure.

## 11.5 Operational

150. The BPT applies at the HRG level for all relevant non-elective admissions.
151. SUS+ will automate payment of the base price. Using a guide developed by NICOR,<sup>54</sup> providers will be required to submit a validation report to commissioners. Where satisfied that providers have achieved the best practice

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<sup>52</sup> HQIP (2016) NHFA 2015/16: [www.hqip.org.uk/resource/national-heart-failure-audit-2015-2016/](http://www.hqip.org.uk/resource/national-heart-failure-audit-2015-2016/)  
<sup>53</sup> [www.nicor.org.uk/](http://www.nicor.org.uk/)

<sup>54</sup> This is available at [www.nicor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/bpt-reporting-guidance\\_using-data-to-develop-reports.pdf](http://www.nicor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/bpt-reporting-guidance_using-data-to-develop-reports.pdf)

criteria, commissioners should manually adjust the base price by applying the conditional top-up payment. Success against the best practice criteria is measured at provider level.

152. Meeting best practice criteria, and payment of the BPT, should be based on the latest available data. We recommend that payment is made retrospectively.
153. Specialist input for the BPT is defined by NHFA (see paragraph 146). Commissioners may wish to request from providers a list of members identified as heart failure specialists for payment purposes.
154. Commissioners may wish to consider the skills and competencies required by healthcare professionals to provide the expected outcomes for people with heart failure. A further source of information is the [Skills for Health website](#),<sup>55</sup> which includes several [competency tools](#)<sup>56</sup> on heart failure.
155. Commissioners may wish to review the NICE commissioning guide to support the commissioning of services for people with heart failure. In particular, the [NICE clinical guidelines on chronic heart failure](#)<sup>57</sup> and [acute heart failure](#)<sup>58</sup> outline the importance of the multidisciplinary team in the care of people with heart failure. The multidisciplinary team may be made up of several professionals who may work with the patient at any point in the care pathway. Commissioners may choose to work with providers to develop a multidisciplinary heart failure team if one is not already in place.
156. Commissioners and providers may wish to monitor whether reported improvements in the rate of specialist input correspond to improvements in other care processes measured by NHFA.
157. Commissioners and providers will need to work together to ensure the accuracy of data submitted to NHFA to ensure fair and accurate payments are made.

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<sup>55</sup> [www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/](http://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/)

<sup>56</sup> <https://tools.skillsforhealth.org.uk/>

<sup>57</sup> [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng106](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng106)

<sup>58</sup> [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-cgwave0608](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-cgwave0608)

# 12 Major trauma

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2012/13	2014/15	Best practice characteristics changed
	2019/20	Two measures removed and one updated from the existing BPT and three new measures added
	2020/21	Level 2 criteria amended to support an expansion in the use of tranexamic acid in trauma for patients with mild or moderate head injuries

## 12.1 Purpose

158. The aim of the BPT for major trauma is to encourage best practice treatment and management of trauma patients within a regional trauma network. The BPT is paid for activity at major trauma centres for the most seriously injured patients.

## 12.2 Design and criteria

159. The BPT is made up of two levels of payment, differentiated by the injury severity score (ISS) for the patient and conditional on achieving the criteria set out below.

160. A level 1 BPT is payable for all patients with an ISS of 9 or above, providing:

- the patient is treated in a major trauma centre
- Trauma Audit and Research Network (TARN)<sup>59</sup> data is completed and submitted within 25 days of discharge
- a rehabilitation prescription is completed for each patient and core components recorded on TARN with documented evidence in patient notes of a copy to the patient, GP and ongoing care provider if applicable
- any coroners' cases are flagged within TARN as being subject to delay to allow later payment
- if the patient is transferred as a non-emergency they must be admitted to the major trauma centre (MTC) within two calendar days of referral from a trauma unit<sup>60</sup>

<sup>59</sup> [www.tarn.ac.uk](http://www.tarn.ac.uk)

<sup>60</sup> If there is any dispute around the timing of referral and arrival at the MTC, this will be subject to local resolution.

- patients with a Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) score of <9 have documented evidence of intubation being considered within 30 minutes of arrival at the MTC.
161. A level 2 BPT is payable for all patients with an ISS of 16 or above, providing all level 1 criteria are met and that:
- if the patient is admitted directly to the MTC or transferred as an emergency, they must be received by a trauma team led by a consultant in the MTC; the consultant can be from any specialty, but must be present within five minutes
  - patients admitted directly to a MTC with a head injury of abbreviated injury scale (AIS) 1+ and a GCS score of less than 13 (or intubated prehospital), and who do not require emergency surgery or interventional radiology within one hour of admission, receive a head CT scan within 60 minutes of arrival
  - tranexamic acid is administered within one hour of arrival at scene (or arrival at the MTC for self-presentations) for patients with at least one injury associated with significant bleeding or those with a significant head injury and a GCS score of less than 13
  - all patients aged 65 years or older have a Clinical Frailty Scale completed within 72 hours of admission by a geriatrician (defined as a consultant, non-consultant career grade (NCCG) or specialist trainee ST3 or above).
162. While not currently a condition of level 1 payments, patients with severe injuries being admitted directly to the MTC or transferred as an emergency should be received by a consultant-led trauma team as soon as possible (ideally within 30 minutes).

## 12.3 Operational

163. The BPT is not conditional on the patient's HRG being in the VA chapter (multiple injuries) and applies to both adults and children.
164. A patient cannot attract additional payments for both level 1 and level 2. For example, a patient with an ISS score of 17 would attract a maximum additional payment of the level 2 score, not both level 1 and level 2.
165. The BPT will not be applied through SUS+, and organisations will need to use the TARN database to support manual payment adjustments.

# 13 Non-ST segment elevation myocardial infarction (NSTEMI)

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2016/17 (non-mandatory)	2017/19	Mandatory BPT and inclusion of patient transfers within the required timeframe

166. This BPT is designed to improve the time from admission to receiving coronary angiography for people with NSTEMI. The current national achievement rate for NSTEMI patients undergoing coronary angiography within 72 hours of admission is 55%.

167. The scope of the BPT includes patients who are transferred between hospitals to receive care (that is, where a patient is transferred from one hospital to another to undergo the procedure) and so the time will be calculated from the time of admission to the first hospital.

## 13.1 Purpose

168. Myocardial infarction (MI) is usually caused by a blockage in a coronary artery leading to tissue death and consequently the typical features of a heart attack: severe chest pain, changes on the electrocardiogram (ECG) and raised concentrations of proteins released from the dying heart tissue into the blood.

169. There are two types of MI:

- ST segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), which is generally caused by complete and persisting blockage of the coronary artery
- non-ST segment elevation myocardial infarction (NSTEMI), reflecting partial or intermittent blockage of the coronary artery.

170. According to NICE quality standard QS68,<sup>61</sup> timely angioplasty, followed by percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) where required, is associated with

<sup>61</sup> [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs68](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs68)

improved outcomes. However, only 55% of people with NSTEMI who undergo coronary angiography do so within 72 hours of admission. The purpose of the NSTEMI BPT is to improve adherence to this quality standard.

## 13.2 Design and criteria

171. Compliance with the BPT will be measured through the Myocardial Ischaemia National Audit Project (MINAP) database. This collects data on time from admission (arrival at hospital<sup>62</sup>) to coronary angioplasty for patients experiencing both NSTEMI and STEMI events.
172. Best practice will be considered to have been achieved where 60% of NSTEMI patients receiving coronary angiography (with follow-on PCI if indicated) do so within 72 hours of first admission to hospital. For patients who are transferred between hospitals for the procedure, the time will be calculated from admission (arrival) to the first (non-interventional) hospital.
173. The term 'follow-on PCI' refers to the PCI being undertaken at the same time as the diagnostic angiogram, assuming that PCI is indicated. The best practice should only be achievable by providers that can undertake the combined procedure of diagnostic angiography and PCI (where indicated) within 72 hours of admission with NSTEMI. The BPT does not require PCI to be undertaken but it does require it to be possible at the same procedure as the angiogram, if appropriate. This is in line with the NICE quality standard QS68.<sup>63</sup>

## 13.3 Operational

174. The BPT applies at sub-HRG level (flag 'BP50') for all relevant non-elective admissions:
- emergency/transfer (21–25, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 28, 81)
  - patient aged 19 or over (on admission).
175. The BPT is made up of two components: a base price and a BPT price (based on a conditional top-up payment added to the base price). The base price is payable for activity irrespective of whether the characteristics of best practice

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<sup>62</sup> The definitions for arrival time at hospital as used in the BPT and recorded by MINAP can be found at [www.nicor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/bpt-reporting-guidance\\_using-data-to-develop-reports.pdf](http://www.nicor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/bpt-reporting-guidance_using-data-to-develop-reports.pdf)

<sup>63</sup> NICE quality standard 68 – [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs68](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs68)

are met. The BPT price is payable only if all the characteristics are achieved. SUS+ will automate payment of the base price.

176. Using a guide developed by NICOR,<sup>64</sup> providers will be required to submit a validation report to commissioners. Where satisfied that providers have achieved the best practice criteria, commissioners should manually adjust the base price by applying the conditional top-up. Success against the best practice criteria is measured at provider level and for the provider that undertakes the procedure.
177. The BPT applies at a sub-HRG level to ICD10 code I214 'acute subendocardial myocardial infarction'. This is because the HRGs will cover a larger group of patients than the BPT intends. The HRGs the BPT may apply to are listed in Annex A.
178. Meeting best practice criteria, and payment of the BPT, should be based on the latest available data.

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<sup>64</sup> Available from: [www.nicor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/bpt-reporting-guidance\\_using-data-to-develop-reports.pdf](http://www.nicor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/bpt-reporting-guidance_using-data-to-develop-reports.pdf)

# 14 Paediatric diabetes

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2011/12 (activity-based structure – non-mandatory)	2012/13	Year of outpatient care structure (mandatory)
	2014/15	Updated to include inpatient care
	2019/20	Updated criteria wording and added information sources to validate compliance

## 14.1 Purpose

179. The aim of the paediatric diabetes BPT is to support clinical services to deliver consistent, high-quality care to children and young people with diabetes.

## 14.2 Design and criteria

180. The BPT is an annual payment, per patient, that covers:

- **outpatient care** from the date of discharge from hospital **after** the initial diagnosis until the patient is transferred to adult services at the age of 19
- **inpatient care** for any admissions related primarily to diabetes. Providers will continue to be reimbursed for admissions where diabetes is not the primary reason for admission using the usual payment mechanism outside the BPT.

181. Before implementing or paying the BPT, providers and commissioners will need to agree:

- data flows and supporting information to show that the best practice criteria have been achieved (suggested evidence of validation is set out below)
- processes for identifying activity covered by the BPT to avoid duplicate payment (SUS+ will not apply the BPT).

182. To qualify for the BPT the provider must demonstrate they meet all criteria as set out in Table 11 below. Information to validate compliance will be available from the:

- National Children and Young People's Network<sup>65</sup>

<sup>65</sup> [www.cypdiabetesnetwork.nhs.uk/](http://www.cypdiabetesnetwork.nhs.uk/)



- National Paediatric Diabetes Audit (NPDA)<sup>66</sup>
- National Children and Young People with Diabetes (CYPD) Quality Programme.<sup>67</sup>

**Table 11: BPT criteria and suggested evidence of achievement**

Criteria		Suggested evidence of achievement
<b>a.</b>	Participation in the annual NPDA including the patient reported experience measurement (PREM).	NPDA website
<b>b.</b>	Each provider must actively participate in the regional paediatric diabetes network. They must contribute to funding the network administration, and show that at least one representative of the CYPD multidisciplinary team (M) attends at least 75% of CYPD regional network meetings.	Self-assessment measure: <sup>68</sup> M17 National children and young people with diabetes Network reports
<b>c.</b>	Participation in a nationally agreed CYPD quality programme (which includes self-assessment, external verification, peer review and quality improvement).	Published national and/or network annual reports on self-assessment/external verification
<b>e.</b>	On diagnosis, a young person's diabetes is to be discussed with a senior member of the paediatric diabetes team within 24 hours of presentation.	Self-assessment measure: M1 (defines the senior/core team membership) M4 (requires the pathway)
<b>f.</b>	All newly diagnosed patients must be seen by a member of the specialist paediatric diabetes core team by the next working weekday.	Self-assessment measure: M4 (pathway)
<b>g.</b>	Each provider unit can provide evidence that each newly diagnosed patient has an individualised structured education programme, that includes being educated about level 3 CHO counting within two weeks of diagnosis (Type 1) or given advice about appropriate weight management (Type 2).	Self-assessment measure: M21 (education programme) NPDA Website (CHO)
<b>h.</b>	Each patient is offered a minimum of four clinic appointments per year with a M, defined as including a paediatric diabetes specialist nurse, a paediatric diabetes dietitian, paediatric psychologist and doctor. At every visit, the patient must be seen by a doctor with appropriate training in paediatric diabetes and at least one other member of the M. At least 90% compliance is expected for this criterion.	Self-assessment measure: M1 (defines the M) M8 (four appointments)

<sup>66</sup> [www.rcpch.ac.uk/work-we-do/quality-improvement-patient-safety/national-paediatric-diabetes-audit](http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/work-we-do/quality-improvement-patient-safety/national-paediatric-diabetes-audit)

<sup>67</sup> [www.cypdiabetesnetwork.nhs.uk/](http://www.cypdiabetesnetwork.nhs.uk/)

<sup>68</sup> Self Assessment: [www.rcpch.ac.uk/work-we-do/quality-improvement-patient-safety/diabetes-quality-programme/self-assessment#downloadBox](http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/work-we-do/quality-improvement-patient-safety/diabetes-quality-programme/self-assessment#downloadBox)

Criteria		Suggested evidence of achievement
i.	Each patient is offered additional contact by the M for check-ups, telephone contacts, emails/texts, school visits, home visits, troubleshooting, advice, support, etc. Eight contacts per year are a minimum requirement. At least 90% compliance is expected for this criterion.	<a href="#">Self-assessment measure:</a> M12 (requires eight additional contacts)
j.	Each patient is offered at least one additional appointment per year with a paediatric dietitian with training in diabetes (or equivalent appropriate experience). At least 90% compliance is expected for this criterion.	<a href="#">NPDA website</a>
k.	Each patient is offered a minimum of four haemoglobin HbA1c measurements per year. All results must be available and recorded at each M clinic appointment. At least 90% compliance is expected for this criterion.	<a href="#">Self-assessment measure:</a> M9 (four measurements)
l.	All eligible patients must be offered annual screening as recommended by <a href="#">current NICE guidance</a> .	<a href="#">Self-assessment measure:</a> M15 (screening)
m.	Discussion of the mental health and wellbeing of a patient should be an integral part of a patient's review with their M. Each patient must be assessed at least annually by their M as to whether additional psychological support is needed. The provider of formal psychological support for diabetes-related problems must be an integral part of the M.	<a href="#">Self-assessment measure:</a> M11 (assessment) <a href="#">NPDA website</a>
n.	Each provider unit must provide patients and their families with 24-hour access to advice and support. This should also include 24-hour expert advice to fellow health professionals on the management of patients with diabetes admitted acutely, with a clear escalation policy on when further advice on managing diabetes emergencies should be sought. The provider of expert advice must be fully trained and experienced in managing paediatric diabetes emergencies.	<a href="#">Self-assessment measure:</a> N10 (access criteria) H2 (local policy implementation)
o.	Each provider unit must have a clear policy for their transition diabetes care and subsequent transfer to adult services. The policy must be in line with National Guidance on Transition and the NHS England Service Specification for Diabetes Transition.  Each provider unit must also ensure that it has in place clear protocols and guidelines for treatment of 16 to 18 year olds admitted for diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) and that these have been agreed with adult services.	<a href="#">Self-assessment measure:</a> M16 (transition and transfer)

Criteria	Suggested evidence of achievement
<p><b>p</b> Each unit must have an operational policy that clearly sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) a policy for children and young people who have a high HbA1c level as a result of poor blood glucose control</li> <li>ii) a policy for children and young people who 'did not attend/were not brought' (DNA/WNB) to clinic, taking into account local safeguarding children board policies</li> <li>iii) evidence of patient feedback on the service (in addition to participation in the NPDA PREM).</li> </ul>	<p>Self-assessment measure:</p> <p>M3 (high HbA1c)</p> <p>M13 (DNA/WNB)</p> <p>M23 and M24 (evidence of patient feedback)</p>

183. The BPT payment **will** also cover:

- patient education about using insulin pumps and continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) whether provided as an inpatient, outpatient or day case
- intermittent CGM for diagnostic purposes
- blood glucose testing strips and insulin prescribed as an emergency by the M.

184. The BPT does **not** cover:

- the cost of insulin pumps and associated consumables
- the cost of CGM systems when used continuously for therapeutic purposes
- routine prescriptions for insulin, blood glucose testing (including flash glucose scanning/FreeStyle Libre) and ketone monitoring issued in primary care.

185. Where commissioners are satisfied that the criteria have been achieved, the BPT must be paid for **all** patients attending the clinic.

186. If a provider admits a patient who is not registered with it, it must invoice the provider with which the patient is registered. If the patient is not registered with a provider, the admitting provider must invoice the relevant commissioner.

187. If a patient is referred elsewhere for a second opinion, shared care or full transfer of care, and if the referring and receiving centres wish to share the distribution of the BPT payment, they will need to agree subsequent division of funding using a service-level agreement. The precise division of funding will need to be negotiated locally.

# 15 Paediatric epilepsy

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2013/14	2019/20	Updated to a three-tier system, with a new non-mandated element added at tier 3. Updated criteria wording and information sources added to validate compliance.

## 15.1 Purpose

188. The aim of the BPT is to enable access to consistent high-quality care for children with epilepsy.
189. There is an ongoing need to improve the quality of, and reduce the variation in, care for children with epilepsy in the UK in line with the recommendations in NICE clinical guideline CG137 *Epilepsies: diagnosis and management*.<sup>69</sup> This includes accuracy of diagnosis, classification and suitable drug choices. It requires improvement in adequate communication and care planning, including comorbidity diagnosis management and school support.
190. Trusts should develop services that include appropriate access to epilepsy specialist nurses (ESNs), mental health professionals and paediatricians with expertise in epilepsies. ESNs form a fundamental bridge between primary, secondary and tertiary care and epilepsy surgery care. They ensure that epilepsy is managed in the community and school when needed rather than just in the hospital ward or clinic.

## 15.2 Design and criteria

191. The BPT has three levels:

Level	Description	Payment basis
<b>Level 1</b>	Where a provider is unable to demonstrate compliance with the BPT	TFC 420 (Paediatrics)
<b>Level 2</b>	Where a provider is able to demonstrate compliance with the BPT (criteria a to h)	TFC 223 (Paediatric epilepsy)
<b>Level 3 (non-mandated)</b>	Where a provider is able to demonstrate compliance with criteria i (mental health provision)	Non-mandated conditional top-up

<sup>69</sup> [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG137](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG137)

192. Compliance with the BPT criteria to be measured using the Epilepsy12 national clinical audit reporting tools.<sup>70</sup>

193. The BPT is payable to providers of a service that meets **all** of the criteria listed in Table 12.

**Table 12: BPT criteria and evidence of achievement**

Criteria		Evidence of achievement
<b>Level 2</b>		
<b>a</b>	The provider has continuously and fully participated in the Epilepsy12 national audit. This is defined as the provider submitting data to service descriptor, clinical and PREM domains as defined by the audit.	Epilepsy12 participation
<b>b</b>	The trust has a defined paediatric epilepsy clinical lead.	Epilepsy12 service descriptor SD4
<b>c</b>	ESN(s) are employed in the provider	Epilepsy12 service descriptor SD5
<b>d</b>	The provider routinely plans comprehensive care for children with epilepsy	Epilepsy12 service descriptor SD27
<b>e</b>	The provider's epilepsy clinics allow at least 20 minutes with a consultant with expertise in epilepsy and an ESN This might be 20 minutes with the doctor and nurse at the same time or 20 minutes with each in succession	Epilepsy12 service descriptor SD6
<b>f</b>	The provider has specific outpatient clinics for 'young people' with epilepsies	Epilepsy12 service descriptor SD18
<b>g</b>	The provider has agreed referral pathways for children with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>neurodevelopmental problems (eg autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD))</li> <li>mental health concerns (eg anxiety, mood disorders and non-epileptic attack disorders)</li> <li>tertiary paediatric neurology services</li> <li>adult services</li> </ul>	Epilepsy12 service descriptor SD23
<b>h</b>	Where the provider does not achieve the level 3 mental health provision (described in criteria i), they must have an agreed action plan describing steps towards co-located mental health provision in epilepsy clinics	Epilepsy12 service descriptor SD24
<b>Level 3 (non-mandated)</b>		
<b>i</b>	The provider facilitates mental health provision in epilepsy clinics This comprises epilepsy clinics where mental health professionals can provide direct co-located clinical care and M meetings where epilepsy and mental health professionals discuss individual patients	Epilepsy12 service descriptor SD24

194. The BPT is a payment for each follow-up attendance and covers outpatient care after the first acute or outpatient assessment. It applies to patients aged 18 and under with a diagnosis of epilepsy, until they transfer to adult services.

## 15.3 Operational

195. Only activity meeting the level 2 best practice criteria should be coded against TFC 223 (Paediatric epilepsy). Where a provider paid on a priced activity basis codes to TFC 223 but is unable to demonstrate compliance with the BPT, then the price for TFC 420 (Paediatrics) applies and a local adjustment will be required. The TFC 223 (Paediatric epilepsy) first attendance price does not require BPT compliance.
196. Epilepsy12 methodology is designed to help trusts demonstrate compliance with the BPT. Commissioners and providers should monitor compliance with the criteria, using Epilepsy12 locally, to determine the relevant payment against the TFC 223.
197. To support the BPT, Epilepsy12 will publish annual reports that include the BPT dataset. However, this will be based on the previous audit year. To support continued improvement and timely payment, trusts will be able to update their service descriptor domain data during the year. The audit includes an export function to generate updated quarterly reporting to support validation. Epilepsy12 will also make available provisional participation reports annually, based on the previous audit year.
198. The BPT does **not** include costs related to:
- acute inpatient care
  - epilepsy investigation and treatment costs (eg electroencephalography, magnetic resonance imaging, drugs, surgery, vagal nerve stimulation, ketogenic diet, etc) with the exception of the costs of blood tests
  - the assessment and treatment for other (non epilepsy-related) health problems not normally treated in an epilepsy clinic
  - more complex epilepsy patients who, in line with NICE guidelines, have shared care with a paediatric neurologist and are coded to the paediatric neurology TFC. The percentage of patients in a particular clinic, service or provider who have shared care with neurology will depend on local pathways and casemix. This is estimated to range from 30% to 60%.

Classification: Official

199. SUS+ will automate payment by applying the BPT (level 2) to activity coded to TFC 223 (Paediatric epilepsy). Activity must only be coded to this TFC if it meets the level 2 best practice criteria.
200. Where both provider and commissioner have agreed to fund and deliver the level 3 criteria, and the commissioner is satisfied the criteria have been achieved, commissioners should make manual adjustments to the level 2 price by applying the agreed conditional top-up payment (per attendance).
201. The pricing approach using TFC 223 is designed to adequately reimburse the costs of best practice (at level 2). Activity captured within the general paediatric TFC (TFC 420) does not reflect the costs of best practice.



# 16 Parkinson's disease

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2013/14		

## 16.1 Purpose

202. Parkinson's therapy in secondary care settings ranges from basic (a care of elderly or neurology review) to comprehensive (multidisciplinary review with full access to therapy services).
203. The aim of this BPT is to enable access to consistent high-quality management of Parkinson's disease, in line with NICE clinical guidelines, to reduce unscheduled care and length of stay in hospital.

## 16.2 Design and criteria

204. The BPT applies to adults with a probable diagnosis of Parkinson's disease where care during the first year is delivered in line with the criteria below. This is an annual payment to reflect the costs from the initial referral date for the first year of care only. The BPT excludes the costs of admitted patient care and the cost of any items not covered by unit prices.
205. The criteria for best practice are:
- a) Referrals from primary care with suspected Parkinson's disease must be seen by a movement disorder specialist (neurology/elderly care) within six weeks. These timescales apply to all patients for the purposes of the BPT, but the expectation is that new referrals in later stages of disease with more complex problems will continue to be seen within two weeks.
  - b) Each patient must receive regular follow-up and diagnostic review with a specialist nurse at least every six months with a process to identify the appropriate period of follow-up. Each patient must have a nominated person identified to continue with follow-up and diagnostic review.
  - c) All patients must be referred to a Parkinson's disease nurse specialist (PDNS) (local titles may include neurology nurse specialist or movement disorder specialist) who will be responsible for co-ordinating care.



- d) Evidence to demonstrate that the provider is using recognised tools: for example, patient feedback, non-motor symptoms (NMS) screening tool and cognitive assessment tool.
  - e) Patients must be offered therapy assessment within one year (including physiotherapist, speech and language therapist and occupational therapist). The BPT does not include the costs of the therapy assessment. However, payment depends on therapy assessment being offered (irrespective of whether the patient takes this up).<sup>71</sup>
206. Commissioners must monitor compliance with the criteria through evidence provided by providers, which may include local records of clinic attendances, local education programmes, etc. Where a provider does not meet all the criteria, activity should continue to be paid outside of BPT pricing.
207. The criteria for the BPT are underpinned by:
- a) NICE clinical guideline 71, *Parkinson's disease in adults*, July 2017<sup>72</sup>
  - b) National Service Framework for long-term conditions. Department of Health, 2005<sup>73</sup>
  - c) recommendations 12 and 13 of *Local adult neurology services for the next decade – report of a working party*, Association of British Neurologists and the Royal College of Physicians, June 2011<sup>74</sup>
  - d) *The European Parkinson's disease standards of care consensus statement*, European Parkinson's Disease Association, Volume I, 2011.<sup>75</sup>

## 16.3 Operational

208. SUS+ will not apply the BPT and there is no discrete TFC for Parkinson's disease activity. Organisations will therefore need to identify activity and administer the BPTs locally. Therefore, activity meeting best practice may need to be excluded from the CDS to avoid double payment. Providers can achieve this by including an equals sign (=) as the last significant character of the six-

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<sup>71</sup> In a few circumstances therapy assessment is not relevant and where providers are able to evidence this, the BPT still applies.

<sup>72</sup> [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/NG71](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/NG71)

<sup>73</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/quality-standards-for-supporting-people-with-long-term-conditions](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/quality-standards-for-supporting-people-with-long-term-conditions)

<sup>74</sup> [www.mstrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/Local%20adult%20neurology%20services%20for%20the%20next%20decade.pdf](http://www.mstrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/Local%20adult%20neurology%20services%20for%20the%20next%20decade.pdf)

<sup>75</sup> [www.epda.eu.com/latest/resources/the-european-parkinsons-disease-standards-of-care-consensus-statement/](http://www.epda.eu.com/latest/resources/the-european-parkinsons-disease-standards-of-care-consensus-statement/)

character CDS data item Commissioning Serial Number. The equals sign would exclude the episode.

209. One way to identify the activity for consideration against the BPT is to use the non-mandatory diagnosis codes in outpatients (G20X).
210. If a patient is referred elsewhere for a second opinion, shared care or full transfer of care, and if the referring and receiving centres wish to share the distribution of the BPT payment, they will need to agree subsequent division of funding using a service-level agreement. The precise division of funding will need to be negotiated locally.
211. The pricing approach is designed to adequately reimburse the costs of best practice. At present, the activity covered by the BPT is captured within a non-mandatory neurology TFC (TFC 400), which does not reflect the costs of best practice.

# 17 Pleural effusion

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2013/14		

## 17.1 Purpose

212. People with a pleural effusion will often present acutely to A&E services with breathlessness. A chest drain can be used to remove the blood, pus or fluid from the pleural cavity. It is a common procedure, but when not inserted properly the drain may puncture major organs such as heart, lungs, liver and spleen. Therefore, all patients, apart from those in extremis, should have such a drain placed under ultrasound control as specified by the British Thoracic Society (BTS) guidelines.<sup>76</sup>
213. Historically, many patients presenting at A&E with a pleural effusion were admitted to wait for drain placement by imaging departments. This unnecessarily increased length of stay and delayed the patient's journey as the pleural effusion was not managed by a pleural disease expert.
214. The aim of this BPT is to incentivise a shift in activity away from non-elective admissions to pleural effusions being performed on an elective basis under ultrasound control.

## 17.2 Design and criteria

215. This is achieved by setting the price for elective admissions relatively higher than the non-elective price, creating a financial incentive for the management of patients on a day-case basis. In setting the BPT, we have assumed that 50% of current admissions to DZ16N are suitable for management on a day-case basis (either YD04Z or YD05Z). These figures are based on assessment using expert clinical opinion. The remaining admissions are unsuitable for day-case management because of complications or comorbidities.

<sup>76</sup> [www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/quality-improvement/guidelines/](http://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/quality-improvement/guidelines/)

216. The BTS guidelines<sup>77</sup> stipulate that pleural effusion should be performed using bedside ultrasound guidance when determining the best site for aspiration and/or biopsy.
217. The BTS guidelines also recommend that pleural procedures should not be done out of hours except in an emergency. Complications of most surgical procedures are higher when performed after midnight. Most pleural procedures do not need to be performed as an emergency and therefore should not be carried out overnight except in the case of significant respiratory or cardiovascular compromise. In certain circumstances, a pleural aspiration of 500 to 1000 mL may be safer than a chest drain.
218. The BPT applies only to adults with undiagnosed unilateral pleural effusions.

## 17.3 Operational

219. The price for an elective day case applies at the HRG level. SUS+ will automate payment where the spell meets these criteria:
- patient aged 19 or older
  - elective admission method (11, 12 or 13)
  - HRG codes YD04Z and YD05Z.
220. We anticipate that some patients will need to be admitted immediately to an acute medical unit to relieve breathlessness before being discharged with a booked day-case appointment. This approach will ensure we do not disqualify providers from receiving the BPT where they deliver care in line with the best practice criteria.
221. As with other BPTs designed to incentivise a shift in activity between settings, this BPT is made up of a pair of prices that create a financial incentive, without costing commissioners more. This is achieved by:
- departing from the conventional pricing structure, with the price for the elective care setting higher than the non-elective price
  - decreasing the absolute level of prices for both settings to reflect the lower cost of providing a greater proportion of care in the elective setting.

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<sup>77</sup> [www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/standards-of-care/guidelines/bts-pleural-disease-guideline/](http://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/standards-of-care/guidelines/bts-pleural-disease-guideline/)

# 18 Primary hip and knee replacement outcomes

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2014/15	2016/17 2017/19	National Joint Registry (NJR) thresholds increased to 85%. Change to the rate below which providers will not be paid from the lower 99.8% significance to include the lower 95% significance for two consecutive years.

## 18.1 Purpose

222. In 2017/19 we amended the outlier criteria requirement for the primary hip and knee replacement outcomes BPT.
223. The purpose of the BPT is to link payment to the outcomes that are important to the patient. The aim is to reduce the unexplained variation between providers in the outcomes reported by patients.

## 18.2 Design and criteria

224. The criteria are:
- a) the provider not having an average health gain significantly below the national average
  - b) the provider adhering to the following data submission standards:
    - i. a minimum patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) participation rate of 50%
    - ii. a minimum NJR compliance rate of 85%
    - iii. the NJR unknown consent rate below 15%.
  - c) hip replacements for patients aged 70 or over:<sup>78</sup>
    - i. the provider uses cemented or hybrid prostheses for at least 80% of patients.
225. In relation to criteria c), where orthopaedic units can use NJR data to demonstrate that the outcomes from this group of patients receiving

<sup>78</sup> Briggs T (2015) *A national review of adult elective orthopaedic services in England: Getting it Right First Time*: <https://gettingitrightfirsttime.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/GIRFT-National-Report-Mar15-Web.pdf>

uncemented hip replacements are better than the cemented or hybrid prostheses, commissioners and providers can agree a local variation to permit payment of the full BPT prices.

226. By 'better outcomes', our expectation is that providers not achieving the target may receive the full BPT price if their three-year revision rate for uncemented prostheses for patients aged 70 or over is lower than the national three-year revision rate expected for this age group for cemented and hybrid prostheses nationally. We will look to provide further supporting guidance in-year if this is needed to assist implementation.

227. Providers also will not receive the BPT if they are:

- below the lower 99.8% control limit based on the most recently published data
- below the lower 95% control limit based on the most recently published previous two years' data.

228. When the BPT was introduced in 2014/15, the minimum thresholds for data submissions were intentionally set lower than the ones providers should aspire to. This was intended to allow providers time to adopt mechanisms to improve submission rates. In response to this, in 2016/17 the thresholds for NJR compliance and consent were increased.

229. The data necessary to measure adherence to the payment criteria, along with further information relating to both collections, are available on these websites:

- PROMs <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-tools-and-services/data-services/patient-reported-outcome-measures-proms>
- NJR [www.njrcentre.org.uk/njrcentre/default.aspx](http://www.njrcentre.org.uk/njrcentre/default.aspx)

## 18.3 Operational

230. SUS+ will automate payment of the BPT price for all eligible activity.

231. Commissioners will need to monitor PROMs and NJR publications to determine whether providers are complying with the payment criteria. Where this is not the case, commissioners should manually recover to the base (non-best practice) price until an improvement is shown in the published data and the BPT requirements are met.

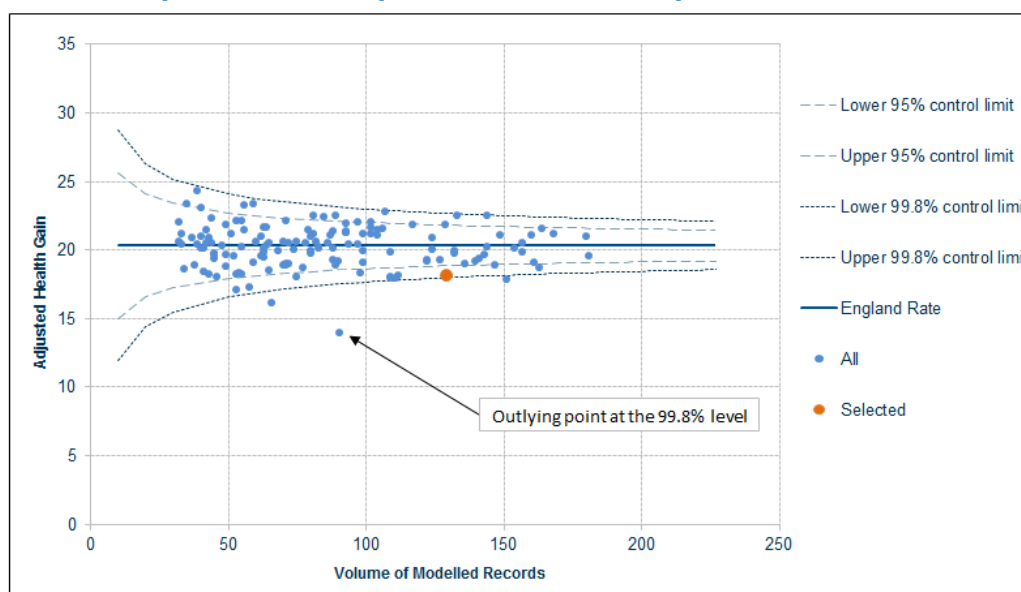
232. The aim of the BPT is to improve patient outcomes and it should not be seen as a way for commissioners to reduce funding. Therefore, before adjusting payment, it is expected commissioners will discuss the data with providers and support any action to improve outcomes.

## 18.4 Patient reported outcome measures (PROMs)

233. PROMs assess the quality of care delivered to NHS patients from the patient perspective. Information is collected about a patient's health status (or health-related quality of life) before surgery and again six months after the procedure, with any change in health state attributed to the intervention. For this BPT, changes in health state are assessed using the casemix-adjusted condition-specific Oxford Hip Score and Oxford Knee Score for primary joint replacements only.

234. Providers' average health gain is presented as a funnel plot and compared with the national average of all providers in England (see Figure 1). The funnel plot indicates whether a provider's health gain is statistically significantly different from the national average. According to the PROMs publication, providers are outliers if they are:

- below the lower 95% significance level labelled 'alerts'
- below the 99.8% significance level labelled 'alarms'.

**Figure 1: Example of PROMs provider score comparison<sup>79</sup>**

235. Whether identified as an outlier or not, all providers should work to achieve the best possible outcomes. Outliers are identified relative to the national average, which may change as the data is updated throughout the year.

236. To make the comparisons between providers' outcomes meaningful, a procedure-specific casemix adjustment is applied to the PROMs data before inclusion in the funnel plot. These specific adjustments are based on statistical models that predict expected outcomes based on patient characteristics and other factors beyond providers' control. This allows more accurate comparisons between the average outcomes achieved by different providers. It also means that providers cannot improve their relative position by selecting patients of a particular type as it is the difference between actual and expected health gain that matters, not simply the absolute health gain.

237. Further information on the casemix adjustment methodology is published by NHS England.<sup>80</sup>

238. The method of identifying outliers only works when providers have a minimum of 30 completed questionnaires. When this is not the case, payment of the BPT is based on providers meeting the data submission requirements of best practice.

<sup>79</sup> Chart adapted from NHS Digital's provider score comparison tool, available at <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-tools-and-services/data-services/patient-reported-outcome-measures-proms>

<sup>80</sup> [www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/proms/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/proms/)



239. The first of these requirements is that providers achieve a minimum PROMs participation rate. This rate is calculated as the number of preoperative PROMs questionnaires completed, relative to the number of eligible HES spells.
240. The PROMs publication also reports other outcome and data submission statistics for primary hip and knee replacements.<sup>81</sup> While not a condition of this BPT, these may be considered as evidence of good practice.
241. PROMs data are updated on a cumulative basis, meaning the data becomes more complete over the year. Because the postoperative questionnaire is not sent out until six months after surgery, compliance with the BPT will need to be assessed against the latest available data at the time of payment. Organisation-level data are made available each quarter (typically in February, May, August and November). Data is provisional until a final annual publication is released each year, but for the BPT the provisional data should be used.
242. In some instances the latest participation figures will relate to a different period from the outcome measure, as postoperative questionnaires are not sent out until six months after surgery and so are subject to a greater delay.<sup>82</sup>

## 18.5 National Joint Registry

243. In addition to PROMs outcome and participation, payment of this BPT is conditional on data submitted to NJR.
244. NJR is part of the National Clinical Audits and Patient Outcomes Programme. It aims to improve patient care by collecting information about joint replacement prostheses and surgical techniques to provide an early warning of issues related to patient safety. Providers are required to upload information to the registry after joint replacement, which NJR uses to support quality improvements and best practice through its monitoring and reporting of the outcomes achieved by different prostheses, surgeons and providers. NJR also supports choice and policy decisions through the data published in its annual report.
245. Payment of the BPT is conditional on providers meeting minimum thresholds regarding two aspects of the NJR data:

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<sup>81</sup> These include EQ5D Index, EQ5D VAS and linkage, issue and response rates.

<sup>82</sup> Although questionnaires are sent out six months after surgery, published outcomes will be subject to a further lag while questionnaires are completed, returned and processed.

- compliance – measured as procedures uploaded relative to the number of eligible spells recorded in HES
- consent – measured as the proportion of uploaded procedures for which patient consent was not requested or is unknown.

246. As with the PROMs data, there is a short lag between procedures and data being made available through NJR publications. Therefore, commissioners should base compliance on the latest available data at the time of payment.

247. Although independent sector providers do submit data to NJR, it has no way of cross-checking compliance as it has no comparator for private (non-NHS) activity – unlike for NHS providers, where NJR can check against HES. This is an area NJR is working on, but until there is a solution for the purposes of the BPT this criterion would not apply. However, you should continue to seek assurance from the provider that it is submitting relevant information to NJR.

## 18.6 Data quality

248. Participation in the data collections is included to improve the data quality and the accuracy with which outcomes are reported. PROMs participation rates may be improved by distributing the preoperative questionnaires in a structured and organised way. Integrating the process into the general preoperative assessment routine is a good way to help ensure high coverage. Providers may also work with their individual supplier who delivers and collects the questionnaires to find a solution that meets their individual needs.

249. PROMs participation rates for a few providers may be greater than 100%. This occurs where the number of PROMs questionnaires returned exceeds the activity recorded in HES. This can occur for a number of reasons: for example, where a provider administers the PROMs questionnaire but the procedure is either carried out at another provider due to subcontracting arrangements, or the procedure is not carried out at all due to unforeseen circumstances. Where this causes issues with assessing adherence to the best practice characteristics, providers and commissioners should reach local agreement on whether thresholds are met.

250. While not a condition of this BPT, providers can do some things to improve the accuracy of their reported rates:

- Some providers choose to administer the preoperative PROMs questionnaire at a preassessment clinic before admission. This means that questionnaires may be received for cancelled operations for which there is no episode in HES. Administering questionnaires closer to or actually on the day of admission may reduce the chances of this happening.
- Clinical coding problems could mean that questionnaires cannot be linked to HES because of poor or incomplete clinical coding. Ensuring that all procedures are fully coded would help this.

251. NJR compliance rates reflect the extent to which eligible hip and knee joint replacement procedures recorded in HES correspond to a record in NJR. These compliance rates may be reported as greater than 100% when the number of records uploaded to the NJR exceeds a provider's activity recorded in HES. This may reflect inaccuracies in the coding of HES data or where activity is subcontracted to another provider, so that HES reports activity at the primary provider but the corresponding NJR record is recorded against the subcontracted provider.
252. To improve NJR compliance, a provider must ensure that both NJR and HES data accurately reflect joint replacement activity undertaken within and on behalf of the organisation. Providers should work with their local NJR regional co-ordinator to address any issues in NJR compliance.

## 18.7 Improving outcomes

253. Many factors affect patient outcomes, and the way in which improvements are achieved is for local determination. However, the following suggestions may be useful in supporting discussions between providers and commissioners when planning improvements.
254. The headline PROMs scores can be broken into individual domain scores, and providers can request access to their own individual patient scores through NHS Digital. Providers might look at which questions they perform badly on to identify why they have been identified as an outlier.
255. Individual patient outcomes may also be compared against patient records to check for complications in surgery or comorbidities that may not be accounted for in the casemix adjustment. It would also be sensible to check whether patients attended rehabilitation sessions once discharged from hospital.

256. Reviewing the surgical techniques and prosthesis used against clinical guidelines and NJR best practice recommendations is another way in which providers may attempt to address poor outcomes. As well as the surgical procedure itself, outcomes can be improved by scrutinising the whole of the care pathway to ensure no other area is affecting outcomes.
257. Providers may also choose to work collaboratively with those identified as having outcomes significantly above average, to learn from service design at other organisations. Alternatively, providers could conduct a clinical audit, a quality improvement process that seeks to improve patient care and outcomes through a systemic review of care against expected criteria.

## 18.8 Further considerations

258. In some circumstances, providers may be unable to demonstrate that they meet all the criteria for the primary hip and knee replacement BPT, but it would be inappropriate for them not to receive the full BPT price. These are:
- when recent improvements in patient outcomes are not yet reflected in the nationally available data
  - when providers have identified why they are an outlier on patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) scores and have a credible improvement plan in place, the impact of which is not yet known
  - when a provider has a particularly complex casemix that is not yet appropriately taken into account in the casemix adjustment in PROMs.
259. Commissioners should pay the full BPT if a provider can show that any of these circumstances apply. The rationale for this is explained below.

### *Recent improvements*

260. Because of the lag between collecting and publishing data, recent improvements in patient outcomes may not show in the latest available data. In these circumstances, providers will need to provide other types of evidence to support a claim that their outcomes have improved since the published data was collected.

### *Planned improvements*

261. Where providers have identified shortcomings with their service and can show evidence of a credible improvement plan, commissioners must continue to pay

the full BPT. This is necessary to mitigate the risk of deteriorating outcomes among providers not meeting the payment criteria.

262. In this situation, the payment would be a time-limited agreement. Published data would need to show improvements for BPT-level payment to continue.
263. There are many factors that may affect patient outcomes, and it is for local providers and commissioners to decide how to achieve improvements. However, these suggestions may be useful:
- Headline PROMs scores can be broken down into individual domain scores. If required, providers can also request access to individual patient scores through NHS Digital. Providers might look at the questions on which they score badly to see why they are an outlier: for example, those relating to pain management.
  - Individual patient outcomes might also be compared with patient records to check for complications in surgery or comorbidities that may not be accounted for in the formal casemix adjustment. It would also be sensible to check whether patients attended rehabilitation sessions after being discharged from hospital.
  - Reviewing the surgical techniques and prostheses used against clinical guidelines and National Joint Registry recommendations is another way providers might try to address poor outcomes. As well as improving the surgical procedure itself, providers could scrutinise the whole care pathway to improve patient outcomes by ensuring that weakness in another area is not affecting patient outcomes after surgery.
  - Providers may also choose to collaborate with others that have outcomes significantly above average to learn from their service design. Alternatively, they might do a clinical audit.<sup>83</sup> This is a quality improvement process that seeks to improve patient care and outcomes through a systemic review of care against expected criteria.

### *Casemix*

264. Providers that have a particularly complex casemix and cannot show they meet the best practice criteria may request that the commissioner pays the full BPT. Although the PROMs results are adjusted for casemix, a small number of providers may face an exceptionally complex casemix that is not fully or

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<sup>83</sup> For information about clinical audits, see: [www.england.nhs.uk/clinaudit/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/clinaudit/)

appropriately accounted for. These providers will therefore be identified as outliers in the PROMs publications. Commissioners are likely to be aware of such cases already and must agree to pay the full BPT. We anticipate that any such agreement will only be valid until the casemix adjustment in PROMs better reflects the complexity of the provider's casemix.

# 19 Rapid colorectal diagnostic pathway (guidance BPT)

## 19.1 Purpose

265. Straight-to-test (STT) pathways can improve access to testing, enabling earlier diagnosis and treatment, and improve patient outcomes. They involve clinical assessment and triage over the phone, before further investigation, rather than patients having to attend an outpatient appointment before their investigation is booked.
266. STT pathways differ from direct access services. Direct access to diagnostics is an arrangement where a GP managing a patient's ongoing care can refer them directly to secondary care for a diagnostic test or procedure. The GP will use the results of the test to inform their decision-making around the patient's continuing care. Direct referrals from primary care to diagnostic services in secondary care do not start a referral-to-treatment (RTT) clock.
267. The Accelerate, Coordinate, Evaluate (ACE) Programme is an early diagnosis of cancer initiative focused on testing innovations that either identify individuals at high risk of cancer earlier or streamline diagnostic pathways. In June 2017 the programme reported on the progress of the colorectal (lower gastrointestinal) pathway cluster. The cluster incorporated local NHS projects focused on the implementation of a rapid colorectal diagnostic STT pathway following a patient's symptomatic presentation in primary care. The following key findings and implications have been recognised by the colorectal projects in developing their STT pathway approach:
- shortened diagnostic intervals
  - outpatient appointment impact
  - improving operational pathway management and quality
  - improving patient and GP referral experience
  - improving performance management.

268. The report found good evidence that STT pathways are more efficient in reducing diagnostic and treatment waiting times and result in improved patient and GP experience.

## 19.2 Design and criteria

269. The BPT payment will be conditional on delivering the rapid colorectal diagnostic pathway and based on an annual provider-level self-assessment.

270. The pathway should ideally include:

- an administrative pre-call, in advance of the 'triage' appointment, to maximise benefit of the appointment, confirm bloods have been taken and reduce missed appointments (did not attend – DNAs)
- consideration of how continuity of care can be maximised to improve patient experience
- an exit interview for patients who choose to end the STT pathway before a diagnostic test or outpatient appointment.

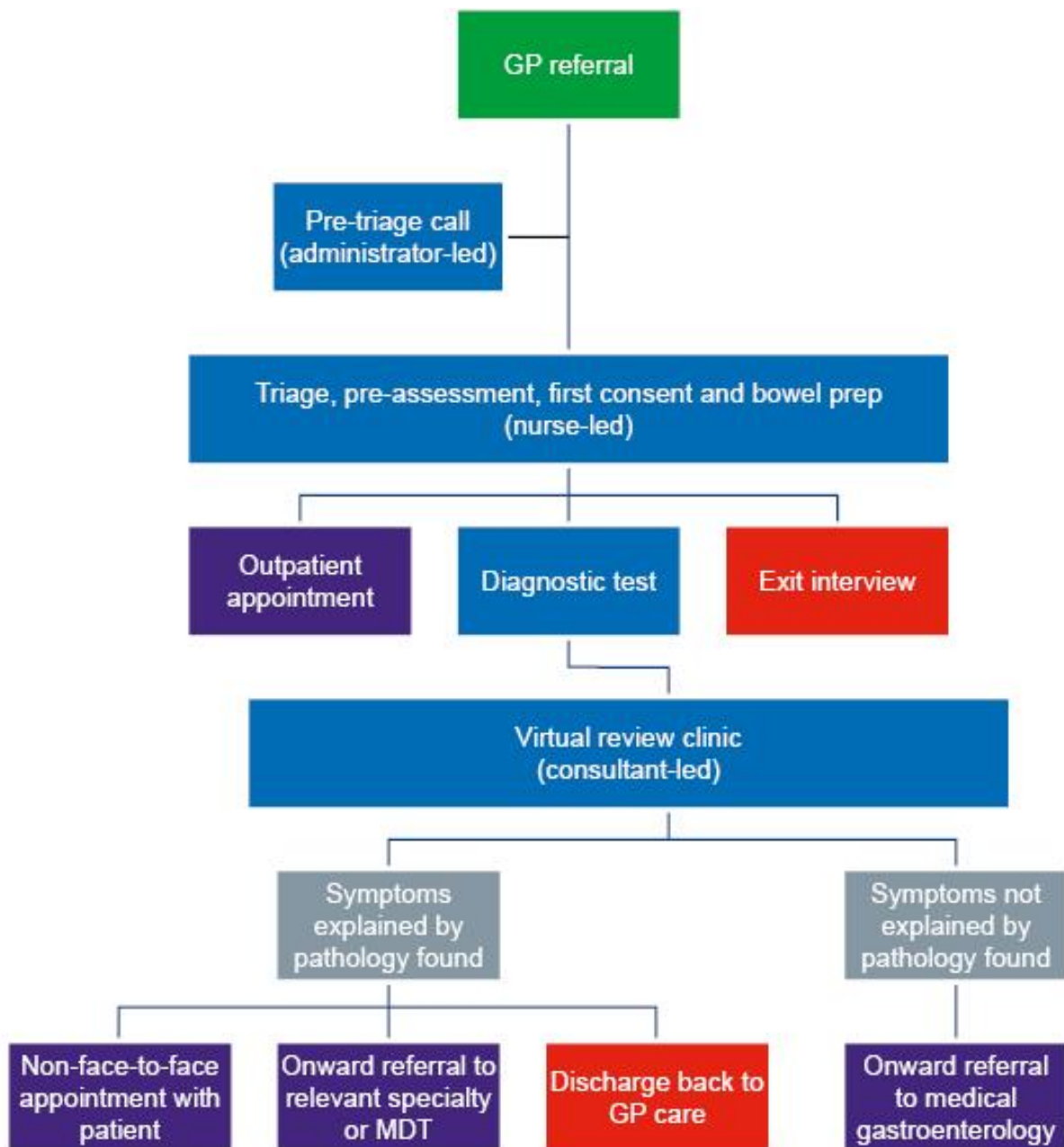
271. The STT pathway offering diagnostic tests to patients without an initial outpatient appointment should follow this guidance:

- The GP refers the patient onto the two-week referral pathway or six-week diagnostic pathway.
- The provider contacts the patient via a triage hub, aided by an algorithm, to decide the most appropriate test.
- If the approach is not suitable for the patient, the triage hub would discuss this with the patient and request a referral for an outpatient appointment.
- The STT pathway should end with either:
  - telephone appointment with the patient
  - onward referral to medical gastroenterology
  - onward referral to other relevant speciality or M
  - discharge back to GP care (with letter detailing what has been found and what, if any, management needs to be planned).

272. An example, BPT-compliant, STT pathway is set out in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Example STT pathway



273. The self-assessment should be based on achieving all the following characteristics:

- STT-dedicated nurses in post – nursing team, minimum of two at band 6 (competent to consent) or band 7 who meet recommended competencies. They do not need to be two whole-time equivalents and should be combined with other appropriate roles.

- Evidence-based investigation algorithm<sup>84</sup> in place, agreed by the consultant team.
- Evidence of primary care and patient group liaison with pathway development.
- Strong clinical leadership – the STT service needs to be led by a nominated consultant (colorectal surgeon/gastroenterologist/consultant nurse).
- Pathway supported by systems allowing active tracking of referrals and collection of outcome data.
- Two-week wait and 18-week wait timeliness compliance.
- Demonstrable reduction in outpatient clinic requirements for patients on the pathway.
- Availability to commissioners of outcome data from the pathway.
- Plans in place to ensure sufficient endoscopy capacity to deliver pathway.
- Development of an STT standard operating procedure.
- The ‘triage’ element of the pathway should be a single appointment which:
  - combines triage and preassessment
  - includes assessment of fitness and arrangements for bowel prep
  - is virtual (such as on the telephone) but with direct patient discussion
  - undertakes first stage consent
  - is planned for a minimum of 30 minutes
  - is undertaken by either a band 6 nurse competent to consent or a band 7 nurse supported by the nominated consultant
  - documents the discussion including agreed outputs which are available to the wider clinical team.
- Consultant-led virtual review clinic (after diagnostic test) before endoscopic, radiological and histology results conveyed to GP and patient in a timely manner and in an appropriate patient-centred fashion.

## 19.3 Operational

274. For trusts to deliver an STT pathway, we recommend that providers and commissioners agree a payment structure reflecting the benefits of the pathway while taking into account any savings from a reduction in the delivery of outpatient services.

- 275. In addition to the self-assessment, commissioners may request evidence to prove that providers have met the criteria set out above.
- 276. If the criteria have been met, providers receive the agreed local price for applicable activity based on locally agreed data flows and supporting information.
- 277. If a provider can prove they have put procedures in place and have met the criteria part way through the year, they could be reassessed and the agreed local price paid from that point onwards.

# 20 Referral of appropriate post-myocardial infarction (STEMI) patients to cardiac rehabilitation (guidance BPT)

## 20.1 Purpose

278. Cardiac rehabilitation is a co-ordinated and structured programme designed to remove or reduce the underlying causes of cardiovascular disease. It provides the best possible physical, mental and social conditions so that people can, by their own efforts, continue to play a full part in their community. A healthier lifestyle and slowed or reversed progression of cardiovascular disease can also be achieved (NICE guideline CG172<sup>85</sup>).
279. Myocardial infarction (MI) is usually caused by blockage of a coronary artery causing tissue death and consequently the typical features of a heart attack: severe chest pain, changes on the ECG and raised concentrations of proteins released from the dying heart tissue into the blood. There are two types of MI:
- ST segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), which is generally caused by complete and persisting blockage of the coronary artery
  - non-ST segment elevation myocardial infarction (NSTEMI), reflecting partial or intermittent blockage of the coronary artery.
280. People who are referred to rehabilitation programmes early have better rates of uptake and adherence and hence improved clinical outcomes.

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<sup>85</sup> [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg172/](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg172/)

## 20.2 Design and criteria

281. The BPT is designed to incentivise referral to cardiac rehabilitation services of appropriate post-STEMI patients within three days of an initiating event<sup>86</sup> and before discharge. Nationally, an estimated 50% of people post-STEMI are referred within three days to cardiac rehabilitation. The target compliance rate is 60%: that is, 60% of patients need to be referred to cardiac rehabilitation services within three days of an initiating event for the BPT payment to be made.

282. We recommend a 10% payment differential between the base and BPT price (that is, 10% between BPT and non-BPT price).

## 20.3 Operational

283. The HRGs in Table 13 below fall within the scope of this BPT.

**Table 13: HRGs within the BPT's scope (where there is also a primary diagnosis included from Table 14)**

HRG code	HRG name
EB10A	Actual or Suspected Myocardial Infarction, with CC Score 13+
EB10B	Actual or Suspected Myocardial Infarction, with CC Score 10-12
EB10C	Actual or Suspected Myocardial Infarction, with CC Score 7-9
EB10D	Actual or Suspected Myocardial Infarction, with CC Score 4-6
EB10E	Actual or Suspected Myocardial Infarction, with CC Score 0-3
EY40A	Complex Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty with CC Score 12+
EY40B	Complex Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty with CC Score 8-11
EY40C	Complex Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty with CC Score 4-7
EY40D	Complex Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty with CC Score 0-3
EY41A	Standard Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty with CC Score 12+
EY41B	Standard Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty with CC Score 8-11
EY41C	Standard Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty with CC Score 4-7
EY41D	Standard Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty with CC Score 0-3
EY42A	Complex Cardiac Catheterisation with CC Score 7+
EY42B	Complex Cardiac Catheterisation with CC Score 4-6
EY42C	Complex Cardiac Catheterisation with CC Score 2-3
EY42D	Complex Cardiac Catheterisation with CC Score 0-1

<sup>86</sup> This is a data field in the NACR: 'the primary reason why the patient was referred to Cardiac Rehabilitation, this may be a diagnosis such as MI or treatment such as CABG'.

HRG code	HRG name
EY43A	Standard Cardiac Catheterisation with CC Score 13+
EY43B	Standard Cardiac Catheterisation with CC Score 10-12
EY43C	Standard Cardiac Catheterisation with CC Score 7-9
EY43D	Standard Cardiac Catheterisation with CC Score 4-6
EY43E	Standard Cardiac Catheterisation with CC Score 2-3
EY43F	Standard Cardiac Catheterisation with CC Score 0-1

**Table 14: Target population ICD10 codes (primary diagnosis)**

ICD10 code	Description
I210	Acute transmural myocardial infarction of anterior wall
I211	Acute transmural myocardial infarction of inferior wall
I212	Acute transmural myocardial infarction of other sites
I213	Acute transmural myocardial infarction of unspecified site
I219	Acute myocardial infarction, unspecified
I220	Subsequent myocardial infarction of anterior wall
I221	Subsequent myocardial infarction of inferior wall
I228	Subsequent myocardial infarction of other sites
I229	Subsequent myocardial infarction of unspecified site

284. The number of patients referred to cardiac rehabilitation should be calculated through the National Audit of Cardiac Rehabilitation (NACR).<sup>87</sup> Providers will be expected to supply the commissioner, on a quarterly or more frequent basis, with the number of patients referred for cardiac rehabilitation as a proportion of all relevant activity.

285. We have developed a specification to calculate the relevant activity for assessing compliance with the BPT criteria emergency/transfer (21-25, 2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 28, 81)

- ICD10 codes (as in Table 14)
- HRGs (as in Table 13)
- discharge destination: usual place of residence (19).

286. As a non-mandated BPT, the price generated by the grouper and SUS+ is the conventional price. Where a provider and commissioner have agreed a pricing

<sup>87</sup> [www.cardiacrehabilitation.org.uk](http://www.cardiacrehabilitation.org.uk)

structure for the BPT, this should be subject to manual adjustments of the conventional price.

287. In calculating the target population, only patients discharged home should be included, to ensure that patients transferred between hospitals are not included more than once across providers.

# 21 Spinal surgery

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2019/20	2020/21	Guidance updated to link to publication of achievement reports
	2021/22	Guidance updated to clarify reporting deadlines

## 21.1 Purpose

288. In 2019/20 we introduced a BPT to improve the proportion of spinal surgery cases entered into the British Association of Spinal Surgeons (BASS) British Spine Registry (BSR).
289. This BPT aims to support meaningful comparison and analysis of spinal surgery and help to reduce variation in the treatment and outcomes for patients.
290. 'Spinal surgery' is used to describe a wide range of operations. In England, approximately 7,600 spinal procedures are done annually on a heterogeneous cohort of patients.

## 21.2 Design and criteria

291. For the relevant list of HRGs that fall within the scope of the BPT, as described in Annex A, there are two prices: a base price and a BPT conditional top-up payment. The base price is set at 90% of the BPT price.
292. To qualify for the BPT, the provider must achieve a 50% case ascertainment rate for applicable procedures recorded in the BSR. The intent is to increase the case ascertainment rate to 80% and over in future years.

## 21.3 Operational

293. The BPT price is made up of two components: a base price and a BPT price (based on a conditional top-up payment added to the base price). The base price is payable for all activity irrespective of whether the provider has met best practice characteristics. The BPT conditional top-up price is payable only if the provider meets the 50% case ascertainment rate.
294. The BPT conditional top-up payment applies at the HRG level for all relevant admissions. The base price is generated by the grouper and SUS+, where the spell meets these criteria:



- all admissions (including day case)
  - HRG from the list in Annex A.
295. Where satisfied that providers have achieved the best practice criteria, commissioners should manually adjust the base price by applying the BPT conditional top-up payment.
296. Provider compliance data will be available within Arden & GEM CSU's [GEMIMA](#) and [NCDR](#) data portals, which will produce a report quarterly showing the provider-level achievement against the BPT criteria. This will be available to both commissioners and providers. To enable accurate reporting and payment, providers should ensure their data is submitted to BSR in a timely manner and at least within four weeks of the end of the quarter. Please note: quarters will not be updated after the four-week period ends (ie when Q2 is reported, Q1 will not be updated).
297. Achievement is measured at provider, not patient, level. Reports at provider level will be published on a quarterly basis. Achievement will thus be measured within each quarterly reporting period, via the quarterly reports. Therefore, providers that achieve the BPT are eligible to receive the BPT from every commissioner that has a patient admitted (for the listed HRGs in Annex A). Providers that do not achieve the criteria will not be eligible for the BPT conditional top-up and will only be able to claim the base price for all activity within the period.

# 22 Transient ischaemic attack

Introduced	Policy changes since introduction	
2011/12	2013/14	Magnetic resonance imaging payment removed in line with guidance on unbundling
	2020/21	Remove risk scoring, in line with NICE guidance, so BPT applies to all TIA patients, regardless of risk.

## 22.1 Purpose

298. The BPT is aligned with quality markers 5 and 6 of the National Stroke Strategy.

## 22.2 Design and criteria

299. The BPT is made up of two components. Both components are conditional on meeting best practice characteristics, though they are payable separately. Activity that does not meet best practice must not be reported against this TFC (TFC 329). The components are:

- a) **Component 1:** payable to providers meeting minimum best practice criteria. Providers not meeting these criteria will be paid an alternative TFC (base) price (to be agreed locally). It is payable for all patients presenting at a specialist transient ischaemic attack (TIA) clinic. The criteria are:
- i) all patients are assessed by a specialist stroke practitioner, who has training, skills and competence in diagnosing and managing TIA consistent with the UK Forum for Stroke Training<sup>88</sup>
  - ii) the non-admitted TIA service has both the facilities to diagnose and treat people with confirmed TIA, plus the facilities to identify and appropriately manage (which may include onward referral) people with conditions that could suggest TIA
  - iii) clinics are provided seven days a week, even if via a service-level agreement with another provider
  - iv) all patients are diagnosed and treated within seven days of first presenting to any healthcare professional regardless of risk assessment

<sup>88</sup> [www.ukstrokeforum.org/](http://www.ukstrokeforum.org/)

- v) all patients diagnosed with TIA have the opportunity to receive a specialist TIA follow-up within one month of original diagnosis. Patients diagnosed as non-TIA are not subject to this criterion. The nature of the follow-up must be agreed locally and it is not expected that this will necessarily be delivered in the same setting as the initial diagnosis and treatment. Where multiple follow-ups are necessary, commissioners and providers agree the level of reimbursement locally.

b) **Component 2:** payable for investigation and treatment of all patients within 24 hours. The timeframe is aligned with the vital signs for TIAs and mini-stroke, and is defined as:

- i) the clock starts at the time of first relevant presentation of the patient to any healthcare professional (eg a paramedic, GP, stroke physician, district nurse or member of A&E staff)
- ii) the clock stops 24 hours after this initial contact, by which time all investigations<sup>89</sup> and treatments<sup>90</sup> should be completed.

300. The payment for investigation and treatment of all patients within 24 hours is designed to incentivise providers to meet the ambition in QM5 of the Department of Health National Stroke Strategy and has been set as a further 20% of the base price.

301. Activity occurring in TIA services meeting the minimum best practice criteria must be reported against TFC 329 (Transient ischaemic attack) and applies in the non-admitted setting. Activity that does not meet best practice must not be reported against TFC 329.

## 22.3 Operational

302. SUS+ will:

- apply the price to activity coded under the appropriate TFC 329
- prevent generation of an outpatient procedure (eg where 24-hour ECGs are performed) when reported against TFC 329.

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<sup>89</sup> Blood tests and ECG (all patients); brain scan (if vascular territory or pathology uncertain; diffusion-weighted MRI is preferred, except where contraindicated, when CT should be used); completion of carotid imaging (where indicated) and referral for timely carotid surgical intervention (where indicated).

<sup>90</sup> Aspirin, statin and control of blood pressure where needed or alternative if contraindicated.

303. SUS+ will not:

- record risk assessment of patients
- assess whether providers have met the 24-hour measure for high-risk patients; providers must supply risk assessment data and compliance to qualify for the additional payment
- apply pricing to follow-up attendances coded to TFC 329.

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