

2.1 NHS reference costs for mental health services

We have drawn on the *NHS Trust and Primary Care Trusts combined* to report on the NHS reference costs of selected mental health services.¹ All costs have been updated to 2014/15 prices using the HCHS pay & prices inflators. Only services with more than 10 data submissions have been included, but weighted costs have been provided for service groups which do include services with fewer than 10 submissions. Children's services have only been included in the group averages, and the costs of selected mental health care services for children can be found in table 6.1.

As the first step towards the introduction of a national tariff for mental health services, the Department of Health mandated the use of the mental health care clusters as the currencies for adult mental health services for working-age adults and older people. The care clusters cover most services for working-age adults and older people, and replace previous reference cost currencies for adult and elderly mental health services. They also replace some currencies previously provided for specialist mental health services or mental health specialist teams. The mental health care cluster for working-age adults and older people focuses on the characteristics and needs of a service user, rather than the individual interventions they receive or their diagnosis. See *NHS reference costs guidance for 2013-2014*¹ for more information on care clusters and the method used to allocate drugs to services.

Each reported unit cost includes:

(a) direct costs – which can be easily identified with a particular activity (e.g. consultants and nurses)

(b) indirect costs – which cannot be directly attributed to an activity but can usually be shared among a number of activities (e.g. laundry and lighting)

(c) overheads – which relate to the overall running of the organisation (e.g. finance and human resources).

	Mean £	Lower quartile £	Upper quartile £
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES			
Mental health care clusters (per bed day)	£324*	NA	NA
Mental health care clusters (initial assessment)	£284	£190	£342
All drug and alcohol services (adults and children)	£128	£94	£148
Alcohol services – admitted (per bed day)	£341	£320	£357
Alcohol services – community (per care contact)	£122	£115	£137
Alcohol services – outpatient (per attendance, consultant-led)	£130		
Drug services – admitted (per bed day)	£433	£336	£539
Drug services – community (per care contact)	£124	£81	£1584
Drug services – outpatient (per attendance)	£130	£79	£113
Mental health specialist teams (per care contact)	£118	£83*	£136
A&E mental health liaison services	£206	£155	£234
Criminal justice liaison services	£197	£108	£295
Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT), adult and elderly	£105	£86	£118
Prison health adult and elderly	£82	£16	£121
Forensic community, adult and elderly	£235	£118	£278
Secure mental health services (per bed day)	£521	£465	£583
Low-level secure services	£395	£3372	£460
Medium-level secure services	£497	£454	£555
Specialist mental health services (per bed day)	£353	£281	£394
Eating disorder (adults) – admitted	£435	£363	£479
Mother and baby units – admitted	£684	£610	£746

*Outliers reported in the DH reference costs in UCR 2015 Schema 2.1 have caused Mental Health Care Clusters (Per bed day) data to be inconsistent with previous years. We have therefore replaced the updated 2013/14 costs with actual costs for 2014/15 found in Department of Health (2016) *NHS reference costs 2014-2015*, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-reference-costs-2014-to-2015>

*This figure has been amended.

¹ Department of Health (2015) *NHS reference costs 2013-2014*, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-reference-costs-2013-to-2014> [accessed 4 October 2015].