

GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED IN THE EU HCSCD DATABASE

Ad hoc study cost: costing data taken from ad hoc studies.

Ambulance service: Service provided by a vehicle which can transport patients to the treatment site or back to their place of residence, and in some instances will also provide out-of-hospital medical care to the patient during the transportation. This subcategory is further divided into non-emergency patient transport and intensive care ambulance.

Brand: Proprietary/commercial name occasionally used to assist in the identification of the regulated medicines, medical devices and/or disposables/reusable. Therefore, this field applies to medicines, medical devices and health products/disposables.

Code: refers to the combination of letters and/or numbers each costing item is described with in the original source.

Complex processes & interventions: Activities that aggregate several simpler procedures, “goods and services” and primary resources.

Composite goods and services: Are bundles of several primary resources that are consumed jointly. For example, a day in hospital will include some staff activity (nursing, doctors ward rounds), some amenity services (catering, laundry) and often more general overheads (energy, general maintenance, portering, etc.).

Currency: is the currency of the unit price of the country the items refers to (e.g., SEK for Swedish Krone, PLN for Polish złoty, etc.).

Day case procedure/Outpatient surgery: A patient or case that comes into hospital for a surgical procedure and is dealt with and released in the course of one day.

Diagnostic procedures: A type of test used to help diagnose a disease or condition. (Adapted from: <https://www.spine-health.com/glossary/diagnostic-test-or-diagnostic-study>).

Ex-factory price: price set at the level of manufacturer (Adopted from: <http://gabi-journal.net/understanding-the-components-of-pharmaceutical-expenditure-overview-of-pharmaceutical-policies-influencing-expenditure-across-european-countries.html>).

Health products/Disposables: Items designed for single use or those that may be used more than once after proper cleaning and sterilisation and/or disinfection. (Adapted from <http://apps.who.int/medicinedocs/documents/s20282en/s20282en.pdf>).

Hospitalization: Admittance to the hospital as an inpatient. (Adapted from: <https://www.ecri.org/library/care-settings/hospital-inpatient>).

Image diagnosis: Radiography, sonography, and other technologies used to create a graphic depiction of the body for diagnosis or therapeutic purposes (Adapted from: <https://www.ecri.org/library/care-settings/imaging-center>).

Inpatient medical and surgical processes: Require patients stay the night following or not the surgery.

Intensive care ambulance: Well-equipped ambulances that provides emergency medical care. Once it is activated by an incident that causes serious illness or injury, the focus of intensive care ambulance is emergency care of the patient(s). (Adapted from: <https://www.ems.gov/whatisems.html>).

Item in local language: The language of the country the resource is taken from.

Laboratory tests: Services provided by medical laboratories for the diagnosis of disease. (Adapted from: <https://www.ecri.org/library/clinical-specialties/clinical-laboratory>).

Leasing price: the amount of money paid for rental of a costing item during a certain period of time.

Local price: refers to the each item's unit price in the national currency.

Local price (CPI applied): refers to the local price after applying the last CPI available

Local price (GDP deflator applied): refers to the local price after applying the last GDP deflator index available

Medical device: An article, instrument, apparatus or machine that is used in the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of illness or disease, or for detecting, measuring, restoring, correcting or modifying the structure or function of the body for some health purpose. (Source: https://www.who.int/medical_devices/definitions/en/).

Medicine: A drug or other preparation for the treatment or prevention of disease.

Model: value used to represent one medical device or a family of medical devices to group many variations that have shared characteristics. This field applies to medical devices and health products/disposables.

Non-emergency patient transport: Transport for patients who require clinical monitoring or assistance but do not need a time-critical emergency ambulance (Source: <https://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-services/non-emergency-patient-transport/>).

Notes: optional field. May be used for explanations or notes relevant to the information contained in the remaining fields corresponding to a particular item.

Number of units: refers to the number of items delivered in the year of observation that are included in unit price. The purpose of this field is to know how reliable a certain value – usually an average - is.

Outpatient visit: Visit of a patient who is not hospitalized overnight but who visits a hospital or clinic for diagnosis or treatment (Adapted from: <https://www.ecri.org/library/care-settings/hospital-outpatient>). The difference between the cost of general practitioner visit and the cost of general practitioner relies on the fact that the cost of general practitioner visit includes the cost of general practitioner plus overheads, such as electricity, heating, laundry, administration, rent of building, etc.

Personnel: Labour time of health care professionals (e.g., workers employed in health care institutions or processes).

Price in euros: is the previously mentioned price in local currency converted to euros.

Price in euros (CPI applied): refers to 'local price (CPI applied)' converted into euros.

Price in euros (GDP deflator applied): refers to 'local price (GDP deflator applied)' converted into euros

Primary resources: A "basic" or "indivisible" input to healthcare.

Production cost: represents real healthcare facility expenses on a specific costing item.

Public price (items different from medicines): price used for those procedures, exams, processes, etc. paid to a public health insurance system by private or external users that are not authorised to receive these services as regular beneficiaries.

Public price (medicines): the selling price of individual drugs (i.e. same active principle, different brands; e.g. Codamol, Tachidol) at pharmacy for the general public. Also called ‘pharmacy retail price’, ‘consumer price’ or ‘end price’ (Adopted from: <http://gabi-journal.net/understanding-the-components-of-pharmaceutical-expenditure-overview-of-pharmaceutical-policies-influencing-expenditure-across-european-countries.html>).

Purchase price: price set at the level of wholesaler (Adopted from: <http://gabi-journal.net/understanding-the-components-of-pharmaceutical-expenditure-overview-of-pharmaceutical-policies-influencing-expenditure-across-european-countries.html>).

Reference of cost data: a publication, a web page or any report where the cost is mentioned (e.g., <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/nhs-reference-costs>).

Reference price: the maximum reimbursement price (for all drugs containing the same active principle, e.g. paracetamol) paid by National Health Service (NHS) (Adapted from: <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2018/sep/pharmaceutical-reference-pricing-future#:~:text=Reference%20pricing%20is%20an%20emerging%20structure%20of%20benefit%20design%20under,the%20patient%20pays%20the%20remainder>).

Source of cost data: refers to the institution the cost originates from, that is, the institution responsible for communicating or publishing the costing information (e.g., Department of Health and Social Care).

Strength: the amount of a drug in a given dosage form, measured as the number of micrograms per millilitre (Adapted from: <https://www.pharmacy-xpress.co.uk/manuals/training-handbook/4-strength-dosage-timing-and-frequency-medicines#:~:text=The%20strength%20of%20a%20medicine,the%20amount%20of%20a%20liquid!>). This field applies only to medicines.

Tariffs: prices paid by a public or private insurer to a health care provider for those services that are free or subsidized for other users.

Therapeutic procedures: Medicine or therapy used to cure disease or pain by the involvement and intercession of proactive, therapeutic practice. (Adapted from: <https://www.wingatewildernesstherapy.com/Glossary/Therapeutic-intervention/>).

Type of institution: type of the centre the patients are attended at.

Type of institution (Ambulatory care): is used for outpatient procedures that do not require a hospitalization and that may be performed in a hospital or in an outpatient clinic (we usually use this terminology when the cost of an outpatient procedure is independent from a setting).

Type of institution (Home): is used for procedures performed at patient's home.

Type of institution (Hospital): is used for all procedures and processes that require hospitalization (hospital stay > 1 day, day case –hospital stay = 1 day–), or those procedures that are performed in a hospital even if that they do not require patient's admission such as intensive care ambulance or A&E visit.

Type of institution (Outpatient clinic): a setting independent from a hospital where outpatient procedures are performed.

Type of institution (Primary care): is used for patient's visits that implies curing of common diseases.

Type of unit: refers to the way the units are delivered (e.g., box). This field applies to medicines and health products/disposables.

Type of unit value (Method of valuing resource use): type of monetary value that is placed on each of the resources used (e.g., public price, reference price, leasing price, production cost, tariff, etc.).

Unit of measurement: refers to the unit that can be acquired at an observable price or the unit that is used by each health care centre/hospital.

Wholesale price: ex-factory price plus the wholesaler margin (Adapted from: <https://www.drugs.com/article/average-wholesale-price-awp.html>).

Year: refers to the year when the cost registration took place or when the cost was observed, not to the year of cost publication.

Year (Consumer Price Index (CPI)): refers to the year of the last CPI available.

Year (GDP deflator): refers to the year of the last GDP deflator available.