

Clinical: Surgery - breast reconstruction  
Proactive Release : 12 November 2019

29 October 2019

9(2)(a)

E-mail: 9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

#### Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 16 October 2019. You requested the following information:

#### The budgeted cost of the following clinical codes, covering procedures for breast reconstruction:

- **4553002** Reconstruction of breast using flap
- **4553900** Reconstruction of breast, with insertion of tissue expander
- **4554500** Reconstruction of nipple
- **4554501** Reconstruction of areola
- **4554502** Reconstruction of nipple and areola

For Counties Manukau Health (CM Health), the dollar value for the listed principal procedures and inlier diagnostic-related groups (DRG) in 2018/19 is provided. Refer to **table 1** for the amounts.

Principal Procedure	Principal Procedure Description	DRG	DRG Description	Cases	Average PUC Revenue
4553002	Reconstruction of breast using flap	J01B	Microvascular Tissue Transfer for Skin, Subcut Tissue & Breast Disorders - no Cat or Severe Complication		
		J14Z	Major Breast Reconstructions		
<b>4553002 Total</b>				<b>18</b>	<b>\$ 22,711</b>
4553900	Reconstruction of breast with insertion of tissue expander	J06B	Major Procedures for Non-Malignant Breast Disorders		
<b>4553900 Total</b>				<b>10</b>	<b>\$ 9,586</b>
4554500	Reconstruction of nipple	J06B	Major Procedures for Non-Malignant Breast Disorders		
		J07B	Minor Procedures for Non-Malignant Breast Disorders		
<b>4554500 Total</b>				<b>28</b>	<b>\$ 3,710</b>

Principal Procedure	Principal Procedure Description	DRG	DRG Description	Cases	Average PUC Revenue
4554502	Reconstruction of nipple and areola	J06B	Major Procedures for Non-Malignant Breast Disorders		
		J07B	Minor Procedures for Non-Malignant Breast Disorders		
<b>4554502 Total</b>				<b>2</b>	<b>\$ 5,928</b>
<b>Total Average (average cost across all listed principal procedures – not a sum of each)</b>				<b>58</b>	<b>\$ 10,696</b>

**Table 1**

We note this range of principal procedures listed includes both minor and major surgical DRGs, and have included the brief description of these. As a part of a full breast reconstruction, an individual may receive more than one principal procedure, over a number of months, and these can be commenced some time after a mastectomy.

These costs reflect an average costing (from our Costpro system) per principal procedure. Individual clinical considerations as to procedures, along with patient co-morbidities, and complications will influence the selection of procedures, and the final actual costs for each reconstruction. Breast reconstruction often takes multiple procedures; consequently these numbers do not reflect individual patients, or costs per individual, but average costs for procedures.

As noted in an earlier response to you (dated 17 October 2019), as the regional service, the CM Health Plastic Surgery Department also receives some referrals for breast reconstructive surgery for patients that are domiciled in the wider Northern Region. The information in this response (above table 1) has been calculated from the procedures provided for Counties Manukau domiciled cases.

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau DHB website.

Yours sincerely,

Fepulea'i Margie Apa  
 Chief Executive Officer  
**Counties Manukau Health**