

6.1 NHS reference costs for children's health services

We have drawn on the *NHS Trust and Primary Care Trusts combined* dataset to report the costs of selected children's health services.¹ All costs have been updated to 2015/2016 levels using the HCHS pay & prices inflator.

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).

For information on the method used to allocate drugs to services, see *NHS reference costs guidance for 2014/15*.¹

	National average	Lower quartile	Upper quartile
COMMUNITY SERVICES, average cost per group session (one-to-one)			
Therapy services			
Physiotherapy	£87 (£94)	£55 (£65)	£128 (£107)
Occupational therapy	£135 (£138)	£106 (£95)	£195 (£157)
Speech therapy services	£89 (£95)	£67 (£74)	£109 (£117)
Community health services – nursing, average cost per care contact/group session			
School-based children's health core (other) services – group multi professional	£62 (£50)	£44 (£41)	£65 (£41)
School-based children's health core (other) services – group single professional	£46 (£53)	£35 (£5)	£64 (£82)
School-based children's health core (other) services – one to one	£54 (£54)	£34 (£36)	£62 (£66)
Elective inpatient (paediatrics), average cost per stay	£2,990	£1,503	£3,948
OUTPATIENT ATTENDANCES, average cost per attendance			
Paediatrics	£199		
Paediatric consultant-led outpatient attendances	£210		
Paediatric non-consultant-led outpatient attendances	£157		
SPECIALIST PALLIATIVE CARE, average cost per bed day			
Hospital specialist palliative care support	£289	£100	£137
CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, average cost per patient contact			
Mental health specialist teams	£217	£182	£219
Day care facilities – regular attendances	£318	£223	£389
Admitted patients (excluding psychiatric intensive care)	£680	£521	£735
Community contacts	£241	£206	£264
Community contacts, crisis resolution	£199	£166	£184
Outpatient attendances	£306	£244	£343

¹ Department of Health (2016) *NHS reference costs 2014-2015*, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nhs-reference-costs-2014-to-2015> [accessed 6 September 2016].