PATIENT LEVEL COSTING IN THE NHS

An average patient? There's no such thing
Bellis-Jones Hill is a leading provider of NHS Costing and Cost Management solutions such as Patient Level Costing, Service Line Reporting and Reference Costs with over 40 Trusts as clients and 15 years’ of experience with NHS systems and data.
True Cost Transparency

Patient Level Costing and Information Systems (PLICS) allow clinicians and managers to see the true cost of the treatment provided, compare performance with their peers and address clinical variation.

But to provide the level of detail required to achieve this clarity it is essential to have a PLICS solution that has the ability to match all patient-relevant data from numerous source systems at the patient episode level.

At Bellis-Jones Hill our deep understanding of costing methodology, large-scale data integration, management information visualisation skills and clinical engagement techniques ensures we are always at the forefront of NHS costing innovation and enables us to offer the most effective PLICS solution.

For PLICS to reflect the reality of what is actually happening at the patient-episode level, the data volumes are enormous. To be useful however, this data has to be matched against each unique patient episode and then formatted to populate the PLICS costing model.

Such data manipulation and data matching can be a very labour intensive task if undertaken manually, but our unique data matching software ADaPT has been developed to fully automate this process. This ensures the data is far more complete and more accurate, and speeds up the routine refresh needed for monthly PLICS and SLR reporting.

To cope with these massive data volumes reliably and at speed, the Prodacapo PLICS solution runs in a SQL database environment that provides ‘industrial strength’ calculating times of less than one hour for a typical acute Trust.

Our Prodacapo costing engine also ensures that your PLICS model can be used for true cost management. Using Activity Based Costing principles, costs are tied back to the individual resources used within departmental cost centres, not just aggregated into cost pools where the granularity of information relating for example, to individual clinicians, is lost in averages and has little useful meaning.
The Difference

It is clear that there is no such thing as an average patient, yet many NHS costing solutions continue to use average costs per unit cost driver from each cost pool which can obscure the real cost of treating individual patients.

If PLICS is to produce credible information, the data used must reflect the reality of patient care as both clinicians and managers understand it.

This demands an approach to costing that makes a clear connection at the most granular level between clinical activity and the resources consumed – no more relying on the simplistic apportionment of cost pool data that hides any unexplained variability - and gives little scope for identifying and actioning any changes that could improve the efficiency of the organisation.

By costing what actually happened, unexplained variability can be identified and acted upon to reduce costs without reducing the quality of care.

We call our approach The Difference.

The chart below provides an example of just how different the results can be from these two different approaches.

Our solutions are already working for over 40 NHS Trusts. If you would like more information or to arrange a demonstration, please call 0207 323 5033 or email sharon.clark@bellisjoneshill.com
“The detail and transparency of the costing approach adopted has proved invaluable in helping us identify and achieve CIP improvements. The flexibility of Prodacapo makes this all possible.”

Michael Davison, Service Line Reporting Lead, York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

The Bellis-Jones Hill expertise stems from a complete understanding of their product... Prodacapo, along with ADaPPT, is undoubtedly excellent value for money.”

Kara Evans, Senior Costing and PBR Lead, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust