

MEDIA RELEASE:

12.05.2022

Not-for-profits call for all sides of politics to support prostheses reforms in response to damning international price data

Sensitive pricing data released in April 2022 by the French has exposed the ongoing exploitation of Australian patients by big global multinational medical device companies.

The secretive French data, quietly released on an overseas website, is explosive, revealing massively inflated prices for pacemakers and artificial hips.

Matthew Koce, CEO of Members Health, the peak body for 26 of Australia's not for profit or member owned health insurers, is urging all sides of politics to commit to reforms that put a stop to the medical technology industry's practice of exploiting vulnerable Australians.

Members Health's analysis of the latest data shows that in some instances, patients can expect to be charged \$5,000 more for an identical medical device in Australia than in France.

According to a comparison of the prices listed in Australia and France, the world's largest global manufacturers are charging a whopping 158 to 256 per cent more in Australia for hip replacement components. Pacemaker manufacturers are charging between 28 to 85 per cent more Down Under.

"We're calling on all candidates at the 2022 Federal election to commit to reform a pricing scheme that effectively gives medical device companies a license to print money and generate massive profits at the expense of vulnerable Australians," Mr Koce said.

The Commonwealth currently fixes prostheses costs for private health consumers through its 'Prostheses List', a list of more than 11,000 medical devices and implants.

"The regulation of medical device pricing is broken and putting healthcare affordability at serious risk during a major global pandemic. It is time for all sides of politics to put their cards on the table and commit to create a fairer system. A system that has the best interest of consumers at its heart and sets prices comparable to those in France to reduce the cost of medical bills."

"As public hospital waiting lists expand, we are seeing more and more Australians value the choice and control that comes with private health insurance. But we can't just let big multinational companies overcharge Aussies for an identical medical device that they sell at lower prices elsewhere."

"Australia is so profitable to some of the multinational device companies that we hear they even describe it as 'Treasure Island'."

"While some important steps have been taken to fix the regulation of medical devices in Australia, the damning international data shows there is still a long way to go. It is crucial that whoever wins the 21 May ballot, acts decisively to complete the unfinished business of prostheses reform by delivering real savings to Australian health consumers."

Members Health is the peak industry body for an alliance of 26 health funds that are not-for-profit or part of a member-owned group, regional or community based. They all share the common ethic of putting their members' health before profit. Our funds represent the interests of more than 5 million Australians.

Media Contact

Matt.Harris@membershealth.com.au

0479 135 464

Putting members' health before profit

A. 601 Canterbury Road, Surrey Hills, VIC 3127 P. PO Box 172, Box Hill, VIC 3128

T. (03) 8831 3372 E. info@membershealth.com.au W. membershealth.com.au ABN. 43 358 871 550

Prostheses Price Comparison 2022:
Australia Prostheses List (AU) vs French (FR) Medical Device Products List and Benefits 2022

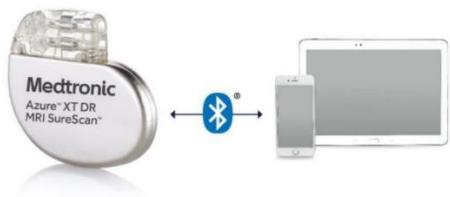
Company	Product Name	1 Mar 2022 PL benefit	Apr 2022 French list price	Total FR Price in AUD \$ (FX @ 09/05/2022)	Price Difference	Price Difference %
PACEMAKERS						
Boston Scientific Australia Pty Ltd	ACCOLADE MRI SR	\$5,398.00	€ 2,822.80	\$4,223.84	\$1,174.16	28%
Biotronik Australia Pty Ltd	Edora 8 SR-T	\$5,398.00	€ 2,822.80	\$4,223.84	\$1,174.16	28%
ABBOTT MEDICAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD.	Assurity MRI PM1272	\$5,398.00	€ 2,822.80	\$4,223.84	\$1,174.16	28%
Medtronic Australasia Pty Ltd	Azure XT SR MRI SureScan	\$5,398.00	€ 2,822.80	\$4,223.84	\$1,174.16	28%
Medtronic Australasia Pty Ltd	Azure XT DR MRI SureScan	\$9,296.00	€ 3,281.79	\$4,910.64	\$4,385.36	89%
Boston Scientific Australia Pty Ltd	ACCOLADE MRI DR SL and EL	\$9,069.00	€ 3,281.79	\$4,910.64	\$4,158.36	85%
ABBOTT MEDICAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD.	Assurity PM2240	\$9,069.00	€ 3,281.79	\$4,910.64	\$5,787.21	85%
Medtronic Australasia Pty Ltd	Percepta MRI SureScan CRT-P	\$10,454.00	€ 4,700.00	\$7,032.75	\$5,754.00	49%
Boston Scientific Australia Pty Ltd	VISIONIST X4 CRT-P, VISIONIST CRT-P	\$10,454.00	€ 4,700.00	\$7,032.75	\$5,754.00	49%
Biotronik Australia Pty Ltd	Edora 8 HF-T	\$10,454.00	€ 4,700.00	\$7,032.75	\$5,754.00	49%
ABBOTT MEDICAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD.	Allure RF PM3222	\$10,454.00	€ 4,700.00	\$7,032.75	\$5,754.00	49%
ABBOTT MEDICAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD.	Quadra Allure MP RF PM 3262	\$10,454.00	€ 4,700.00	\$7,032.75	\$5,754.00	49%
HIP REPLACEMENT COMPONENTS						
Lima Orthopaedics Australia Pty Ltd	H-Max M Femoral Stem Ti6Al4V	\$2,954.00	€ 746.83	\$1,117.50	\$1,836.50	164%
ADLER ORTHO AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	Hydra Hip Stem	\$3,609.00	€ 746.83	\$1,117.50	\$2,491.50	223%
Zimmer Biomet Pty Ltd	Alpha Durasul Insert	\$973.00	€ 251.94	\$376.99	\$596.01	158%
MICROPORT ORTHOPEDICS PTY LIMITED	Profemur L	\$3,609.00	€ 746.83	\$1,117.50	\$2,862.17	256%

Sources: Australia Prostheses List - Part A, at 1 March 2022: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/prostheses-list>
 Liste des produits et presentations remboursables: <https://www.ameli.fr/sites/default/files/Documents/lpp-11042022.pdf>

Putting members' health before profit

**Prostheses Price Comparison 2022:
Australia Prostheses List (AU) vs French (FR) key examples**

Medtronic Australasia Pty Ltd Azure XT DR MRI SureScan

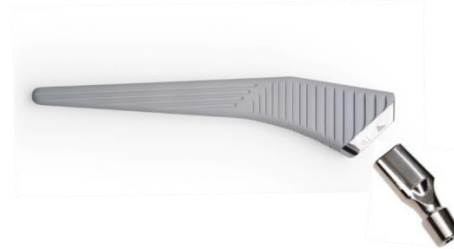


France (AUD):	\$4,910.64*
Australia:	\$9,296.00
Price Difference:	89%

Image: <https://europe.medtronic.com/xd-en/healthcare-professionals/products/cardiac-rhythm/pacemakers/azure.html>

* Total FR Price in AUD \$ (FX @ 09/05/2022)

Adler Ortho Australia PTY LTD Hydra Hip Stem



France (AUD):	\$1,117.50*
Australia:	\$3,609.00
Price Difference:	223%

Image: <https://www.adlerortho.com.au/hydra/>

* Total FR Price in AUD \$ (FX @ 09/05/2022)

Putting members' health before profit

A. 601 Canterbury Road, Surrey Hills, VIC 3127 P. PO Box 172, Box Hill, VIC 3128
T. (03) 8831 3372 E. info@membershealth.com.au W. membershealth.com.au ABN. 43 358 871 550