

**MEDIA RELEASE:**

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17.10.2022

**End medical device rip offs to improve healthcare affordability**

Updated pricing data from France has again supported the pressing need for tough measures to curb profiteering by large multinational medical device companies operating in Australia.

The French data exposes the grossly inflated prices charged in Australia for medical devices that are used to treat serious health conditions and further supports the case for the Albanese Government's reform efforts.

Matthew Koce, CEO of Members Health, the peak body for 26 of Australia's not-for-profit or member-owned health insurers has welcomed the Federal Government's proposed introduction of legislative changes to lower the costs of medical devices paid by privately insured patients.

A comparison of the latest pricing data from Australia and France, shows that some of the world's largest manufacturer's prices for hip replacement components are a massive 135 to 197 per cent more in Australia. While pacemakers are priced between 27 to 87 per cent more.

Members Health's analysis of the data shows some medical devices costing private health consumers \$4,337 more for an identical device in Australia than in France.

"The current situation is appalling and untenable. The data paints a shocking picture, suggesting vulnerable Australians in need of healthcare are being exploited and ripped off." Matthew Koce said.

"The Albanese Government and in particular, Health Minister Mark Butler deserves to be commended for so quickly getting work underway on draft legislation that will for the first time hold the big powerful multinational medical device industry to account and protect Australian families."

"The latest price comparison data is a major blow for consumers, providing a compelling justification for the legislative reforms underway to mandate fair prices that will put downward pressure on healthcare costs and help families with cost of living pressures." Mr. Koce said.

Mr. Koce said Members Health considers the Government's proposed legislative changes as critical to fixing a system that has for far too long let big multinational corporations rip off Australian consumers.

"Due to outdated, manipulated and broken regulation, Australian private health consumers have been forced to pay more for identical medical devices available overseas for far too long. It is no wonder we are called 'Treasure Island'."

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“Policyholders can be assured that any savings flowing from these changes will be passed on by the 26 Members Health funds, who always put consumers first, not profits.”

*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.*

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

Company	Product Name	Aug 2022 PL benefit	Aug 2022 French list price	Total FR Price in AUD \$ (FX @ 30/09/2022)	Price Difference	Price Difference %
<b>PACEMAKERS</b>						
Boston Scientific Australia Pty Ltd	ACCOLADE MRI SR	\$5,398.00	€ 2,822.80	\$4,264.89	\$1,133.11	27%
Biotronik Australia Pty Ltd	Edora 8 SR-T	\$5,398.00	€ 2,822.80	\$4,264.89	\$1,133.11	27%
ABBOTT MEDICAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD.	Assurity MRI PM1272	\$5,398.00	€ 2,822.80	\$4,264.89	\$1,133.11	27%
Medtronic Australasia Pty Ltd	Azure XT SR MRI SureScan	\$5,398.00	€ 2,822.80	\$4,264.89	\$1,133.11	27%
Medtronic Australasia Pty Ltd	Azure XT DR MRI SureScan	\$9,296.00	€ 3,281.79	\$4,958.36	\$4,337.64	87%
Boston Scientific Australia Pty Ltd	ACCOLADE MRI DR SL and EL	\$9,069.00	€ 3,281.79	\$4,958.36	\$4,110.64	83%
Medtronic Australasia Pty Ltd	Percepta MRI SureScan CRT-P	\$10,454.00	€ 4,700.00	\$7,101.09	\$3,352.91	47%
Boston Scientific Australia Pty Ltd	VISIONIST X4 CRT-P, VISIONIST CRT-P	\$10,454.00	€ 4,700.00	\$7,101.09	\$3,352.91	47%
Biotronik Australia Pty Ltd	Edora 8 HF-T	\$10,454.00	€ 4,700.00	\$7,101.09	\$3,352.91	47%
ABBOTT MEDICAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD.	Allure RF PM3222	\$10,454.00	€ 4,700.00	\$7,101.09	\$3,352.91	47%
ABBOTT MEDICAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD.	Quadra Allure MP RF PM 3262	\$10,454.00	€ 4,700.00	\$7,101.09	\$3,352.91	47%
<b>HIP REPLACEMENT COMPONENTS</b>						
Lima Orthopaedics Australia Pty Ltd	H-Max M Femoral Stem Ti6Al4V	\$2,654.00	€ 746.83	\$1,128.36	\$1,525.64	135%
ADLER ORTHO AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	Hydra Hip Stem	\$3,352.00	€ 746.83	\$1,128.36	\$2,223.64	197%
Zimmer Biomet Pty Ltd	Alpha Durasul Insert	\$931.00	€ 251.94	\$380.65	\$550.35	145%
MICROPORT ORTHOPEDICS PTY LIMITED	Profemur L	\$3,352.00	€ 746.83	\$1,128.36	\$2,223.64	197%

Sources: Australia Prostheses List - Part A, at August 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-29082022.pdf>

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

**Medtronic Australasia Pty Ltd Azure XT DR MRI SureScan**

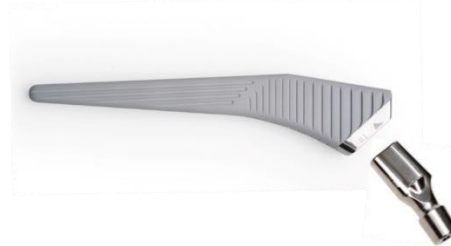


France (AUD):	\$4,958.36*
Australia:	\$9,296.00
<b>Price Difference:</b>	<b>87%</b>

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

\* Total FR Price in AUD \$ (FX @ 30/09/2022)

**Adler Ortho Australia PTY LTD Hydra Hip Stem**



France (AUD):	\$1,128.36*
Australia:	\$3,352.00
<b>Price Difference:</b>	<b>197%</b>

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

\* Total FR Price in AUD \$ (FX @ 30/09/2022)

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