

**MEDIA RELEASE:**

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03 August 2023

**More Action Needed to Curb Excessive Medical Device Prices in Australia**

Fresh pricing data from France underscores the compelling need for decisive measures to combat profiteering by large multinational medical device companies operating in Australia.

The newly revealed French data shows the alarming disparity in prices for medical devices used to treat health conditions in Australia, providing further motivation to continue the Albanese Government's ongoing efforts for reform of the nation's outdated medical device price regulations.

A detailed comparison of the latest pricing data between Australia and France has revealed that leading manufacturers of hip replacement components are priced at an exorbitant 100 to 158 per cent more in Australia, while pacemakers are marked up between 11 to 59 per cent.

Matthew Koce, CEO of Members Health, the peak body for 25 of Australia's not-for-profit or member-owned health insurers is urging the Albanese Government to continue to press for meaningful reform that puts the interests of Australian consumers ahead of big multinationals.

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

"The latest price comparison data is a stark wake-up call and provides a compelling case for the ongoing reform aimed at achieving fairer prices for Australians. Meaningful reforms will put downward pressure on healthcare costs and insurance premiums." Mr. Koce said.

"Due to outdated, manipulated, and broken regulations, Australian private health consumers have long been paying extra for identical medical devices available at much lower costs overseas. It's no wonder that Australia is often referred to as 'Treasure Island'."

"There can be no question that a system is in crisis when Australians pay up to 158% more for life-changing medical devices when compared to prices charged overseas."

"Policyholders can be assured that any savings flowing from prostheses reform will be passed on by the 25 Members Health funds, who always put consumers first, not profits."

*Members Health is the peak industry body for an alliance of 25 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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**Putting members' health before profit**

**Prostheses Price Comparison August 2023:**
**Australia Prostheses List (AU) vs French (FR) Medical Device Products List and Benefits 2023**

Company	Product Name	Jul 2023 AU PL benefit	Jul 2023 French list price	Total FR Price in AUD		Price Difference %
				\$ (FX @ 03/08/2023)	Price Difference	
<b>PACEMAKERS</b>						
Boston Scientific Australia Pty Ltd	ACCOLADE MRI SR	\$5,244.00	€ 2,822.80	\$4,725.41	\$518.59	11%
ABBOTT MEDICAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD.	Assurity MRI PM1272	\$5,244.00	€ 2,822.80	\$4,725.41	\$518.59	11%
Medtronic Australasia Pty Ltd	Azure XT SR MRI SureScan	\$5,244.00	€ 2,822.80	\$4,725.41	\$518.59	11%
Medtronic Australasia Pty Ltd	Azure XT DR MRI SureScan	\$8,718.00	€ 3,281.79	\$5,492.22	\$3,225.78	59%
Boston Scientific Australia Pty Ltd	ACCOLADE MRI DR SL and EL	\$8,046.00	€ 3,281.79	\$5,492.22	\$2,552.23	46%
Medtronic Australasia Pty Ltd	Percepta MRI SureScan CRT-P	\$10,454.00	€ 4,700.00	\$7,867.87	\$2,586.13	33%
Boston Scientific Australia Pty Ltd	VISIONIST X4 CRT-P, VISIONIST CRT-P	\$10,454.00	€ 4,700.00	\$7,867.87	\$2,586.13	33%
Biotronik Australia Pty Ltd	Edora 8 HF-T	\$10,454.00	€ 4,700.00	\$7,867.87	\$2,586.13	33%
ABBOTT MEDICAL AUSTRALIA PTY LTD.	Allure RF PM3222	\$10,454.00	€ 4,700.00	\$7,867.87	\$2,586.13	33%
<b>HIP REPLACEMENT COMPONENTS</b>						
Lima Orthopaedics Australia Pty Ltd	H-Max M Femoral Stem Ti6Al4V	\$2,504.00	€ 746.83	\$1,250.20	\$1,253.80	100%
ADLER ORTHO AUSTRALIA PTY LTD	Hydra Hip Stem	\$3,223.00	€ 746.83	\$1,250.20	\$1,972.80	158%
Zimmer Biomet Pty Ltd	Alpha Durasul Insert	\$930.00	€ 251.94	\$421.75	\$508.25	121%
MICROPORT ORTHOPEDICS PTY LIMITED	Profemur L	\$3,223.00	€ 746.83	\$1,250.20	\$1,972.80	158%

Sources: Prescribed List of Medical Devices and Human Tissue Products, at 1 July 2023: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/prostheses-list>  
 Liste des produits et presetations remboursables (Jul 2023): <https://www.ameli.fr/sites/default/files/Documents/LPP%2020230705.pdf>

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**Prostheses Price Comparison August 2023:**  
**Australia Prostheses List (AU) vs French (FR) key examples**

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



France (AUD):	\$5,492.22*
Australia:	\$8,718.00
<b>Price Difference:</b>	<b>59%</b>

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

\* Total FR Price in AUD \$ (FX @ 03/08/2023)

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



France (AUD):	\$1,250.20*
Australia:	\$3,223.00
<b>Price Difference:</b>	<b>158%</b>

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

\* Total FR Price in AUD \$ (FX @ 03/08/2023)

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