

**Reference:** FOI.ICB-2324/183

**Subject:** Hernia Mesh Removal

*I can confirm that the ICB does hold some of the information requested; please see responses below:*

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>For a period covering the last seven years, or for as long as possible up to that period, could you tell me:</p> <p>Clarification received 15/08/23: There is a general code reference, but it covers quite a wide range of hernia problems.</p> <p>The code is T2110, Repair of a recurrent inguinal hernia. But my particular interest is in cases where the mesh has failed in some way and has to be removed. The terminology to search for would be something like... "Revision ongroin surgery" and should include "mesh removal". It may be that this procedure is funded, but not carried out at a local NHS hospital, but I would like to know if that was the case, and how many times, as stated in my original request.</p> <p>Please also note that my request also seeks information on the types of symptoms and problems that patients were experiencing, and which were deemed sufficient to justify the removal of the hernia mesh. I hope you will be able to find this information. Please let me know if there are any further queries. Thanks for you help.</p>	
<p>1. How many surgical procedures were undertaken to address problems/complications with hernia mesh? Please include men and women in these figures, and ONLY include hernias, not mesh used for other kinds of procedures.</p>	<p>The ICB has been unable to identify any records matching the stated OPCS code.</p> <p>We advise you to contact the acute trusts for the data, as follows:</p>

	<p>North Bristol NHS Trust (NBT) – <a href="https://www.nbt.nhs.uk/about-us/information-governance/freedom-information/request-information">https://www.nbt.nhs.uk/about-us/information-governance/freedom-information/request-information</a> University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW) – <a href="https://www.uhbw.nhs.uk/p/how-we-use-your-data/freedom-of-information-foi-requests">https://www.uhbw.nhs.uk/p/how-we-use-your-data/freedom-of-information-foi-requests</a></p>
<p>2. What were the types of problems/complications that patients were experiencing and which were deemed appropriate for corrective surgery? If this is too wide ranging then please narrow it down to include - mesh migration (movement), pain, impact on reproductive/sexual health, and autoimmune complications.</p>	<p>The ICB does not routinely fund this treatment due to limited clinical evidence to support this surgery.</p>

***The information provided in this response is accurate as of 21 August 2023 and has been approved for release by Sarah Truelove, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.***