

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO**

Budget Estimates 2012-2013, 30 & 31 May and 1 June 2012

**Question:** E12 - 400

**OUTCOME 9:** Private Health

**Topic:** Savings Measure - Prosthesis List

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Number of pages:** 1

**Senator:** Senator Xenophon

**Question:**

The Budget Papers also included a savings measure relating to joint prosthesis with higher than expected revisions rates, which will be removed from the Prosthesis List.

- a) How will this operate?
- b) How long will devices have to display this rate before they are removed?
- c) How many devices will be removed immediately?
- d) What processes will a device need to go through to determine that the fault is with the device and not with the way it's being implanted and so on before it's removed from the list?
- e) Presumably this move will rely on data received from the NJRR. Are there any plans to make this registry mandatory to ensure that all possible data is collected, or will there be other ways of collecting data?

**Answer:**

- a) The operation of this measure will be finalised after consultation with stakeholders. It is envisaged that independent expert advice will be obtained to recommend which items with higher than anticipated revision rates identified in the National Joint Replacement Registry (NJRR) annual reports, should be removed from the Prosthesis List and to develop the consistent criteria that will applied.
- b) This is yet to be determined.
- c) This is yet to be determined.
- d) Expert independent advice will be obtained, along with input from the relevant sponsor/s, to ensure these distinctions are made.

e) No, currently 100 per cent of all orthopaedic joint replacement surgery is reported to the NJRR (except for finger and toe joints). This is reported on a voluntary basis and is highly successful. There is no reason to make reporting mandatory.