



Resource impact summary report

Resource impact

Published: 27 August 2025

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Resource impact summary report

Recommendations

Procure bed frames for use in acute medical or surgical hospital wards with the following standard features, as a minimum:

- a design that prevents patient migration (sliding down the bed)
- adjustable to a low height position
- an ergonomic brake system
- steering assistance (for example, a fifth wheel or double-bogie castor configuration).

There is not enough evidence to determine whether price variation is justified between bed frames for other features, including:

- in-built weighing scales
- bed exit alarms
- turn assistance (for turning or repositioning the patient)
- power drive (motorised to assist with moving the bed)
- connectivity (between the bed and other systems or appliances).

Procure the most appropriate bed frames, taking into account, among other considerations:

- patient needs and safety, including whether the bed frames have features to reduce injuries to the person using the bed, patient infections and patient falls
- the preferences of the multidisciplinary teams using the bed frames, including the usability of bed frames and their features, and staff training needs
- compatibility with existing accessories and fixtures (such as hoists and mattresses) within the local NHS trust

- full life-cycle costs of the bed frames, including costs and turnaround time for repair and maintenance, and availability of spare parts and accessories
- lifespan and obsolescence of the bed frames, including sustainability and environmental impact, digital integration and future proofing.

If more than one bed frame model is appropriate, choose the one that is least expensive.

Financial resource impact

According to the most recent [NHS England bed availability and occupancy data](#) there are around 117,500 acute medical and surgical adult beds available within the NHS in England. Some bed frame procurement in the NHS comes through NHS Supply Chain, and some comes through other frameworks.

The key drivers of financial resource impact are:

- NHS trusts should not expect to pay more to procure bed frames with the minimum features outlined, as these should come as standard on bed frames for use in acute medical or surgical hospital wards.
- For bed frame features where there is not enough evidence to determine whether price variation is justified, additional consideration as to whether these are beneficial to the hospital setting should be given.
- NHS trusts that consider standardising bed frame models within their hospital may benefit from shorter turnaround times for bed frame repair and potentially fewer risks because of familiarity with the bed frames and their features.

If organisations are considering procuring bed frames for their acute medical or surgical hospital wards, NHS Supply Chain (email rehab.comm@supplychain.nhs.uk) can assist in obtaining the best value and help assess the net impact for the organisation.

Key information

Table 1 Key information

Commissioner(s)	Integrated care boards (ICBs)
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Provider(s)	NHS hospital trusts
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About this resource impact summary report

This resource impact summary report accompanies the [NICE late-stage assessment guidance on bed frames for adults in acute medical or surgical hospital wards](#) and should be read with it.

ISBN: 978-1-4731-7165-7