

Cost	Reliability	Entities
42.0 Per Episode	C	Administração Central do Sistema de Saúde, I.P.

Update Likelihood	Reference Year
Medium	2022

Methodology

This value is mentioned in the [Terms of Reference for Contracting Health Care in the National Health System for 2022](#), published by the Central Administration of the Health System. This document includes the reference prices per service to be considered when negotiating contracts (*Contrato-Programa*) with Hospital Institutions and Local Health Units.

Please keep in mind that this value is only indicative of the cost for the State. This value is a proxy for the cost of the disease/treatment at the hospital level. It does not necessarily reflect a set of other costs associated with other levels of care for the same disease/treatment or even costs related to the same treatment process at the hospital itself.

Prices contracted might differ from reference prices. There are mechanisms in place that allow for price flexibility, depending on each region's priority areas. This value refers only to the fixed component and might not coincide with the real cost for each hospital of running an emergency room.

~~This value reflects a direct cost.~~

The basic emergency room visit cost includes medical care, complementary diagnostic tests and therapy. It excludes costs of medicines prescribed in the institution and supplied in the community pharmacy.

The average cost of a basic emergency room visit is calculated as the ratio between the monetary value made available for each emergency service and the expected average volume of activity (in number of episodes). It is important to note that 5% of the service's budget is dependent on compliance with quality indicators. If the volume of activity goes beyond what was expected, the payment of a marginal value applies. In such cases, the average cost of each emergency episode will be lower since the marginal price charged is below the average price computed under normal circumstances.

Some hospitals have Medical-Surgical Emergency Rooms and Polyvalent Emergency Rooms, differentiated units that must be installed in general hospitals of a level not inferior to a district hospital. In the case of these hospitals, the average cost per episode of urgency is €50 and €100 respectively.



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