

Private healthcare information network (PHIN) data is collected on behalf of private healthcare providers and provides detail on safety, quality, costs and activity within the private healthcare system.

The lack of elective orthopaedic capacity within NHSW and the already lengthy waiting lists has driven activity towards the private sector particularly in the self-pay sector where people without health insurance pay for their treatment. These patients often have to put themselves under financial pressure in doing so e.g. by taking out a loan or using life savings intended for retirement.

PHIN data demonstrates a huge increase in this sector, when activity data from October to December 2019 is compared with data from the same period for 2021, with an overall increase of 90%. This represents the greatest increase for any region in the UK.

For procedure specific activity, the PHIN data demonstrates a 106% increase in self pay total hip replacement surgery and a 100% increase in self pay total knee replacement.