

# CCSD

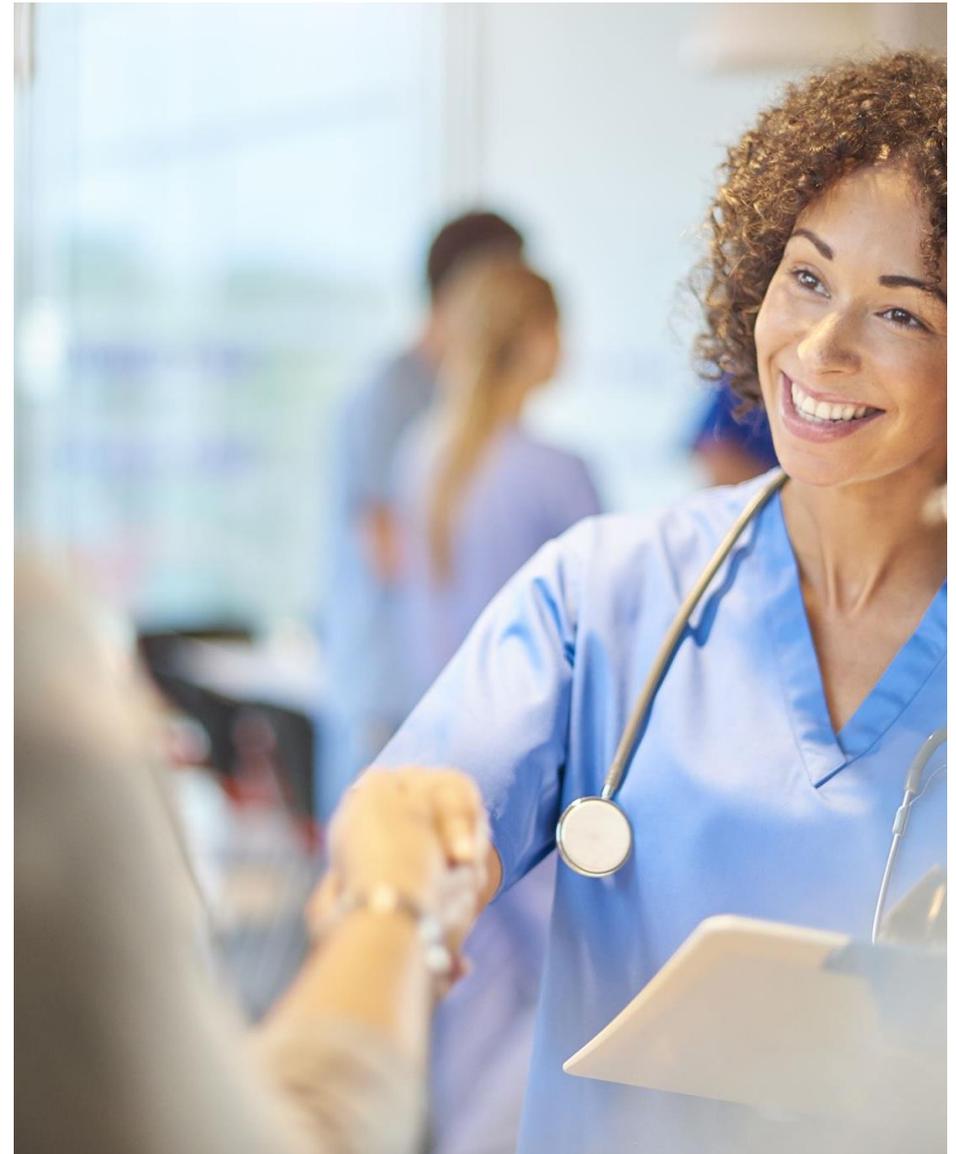
## Annual Report

2023



# Contents

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|    | <i>Introduction</i>  | 3 |
|    | Background: CCSD Strategy  | 3 |
|    | Summary of key achievements in 2023  | 3 |
|    | <i>Key achievements: A detailed look</i>   | 4 |
|    | CCSD Board   | 4 |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New Board governance arrangements</li> <li>▪ Introduction to the new CCSD Board Chair</li> </ul>                      |   |
|    | Code development work  | 4 |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Robotic codes development</li> <li>▪ Gender affirmation codes chapter</li> <li>▪ Schedule alignment review</li> </ul> |   |
|  | Introduction of a new funding model for licences   | 6 |
|  | Training   | 6 |
|  | Clinical engagement  | 7 |
|  | <i>Schedule updates in 2023</i>  | 7 |
|  | <i>What lies ahead: Priorities for 2024</i>  | 8 |



## Background: CCSD Strategy 2022-25

The CCSD Strategy was published in 2022. It was developed following CCSD meeting its initial aim of providing an industry standard code set to support effective reimbursement. There was a recognition that CCSD should build on this and the CCSD Board felt there was a need to develop a refreshed strategic direction for CCSD.

As part of the development of the Strategy, an engagement exercise was undertaken to identify areas that required development within CCSD. This involved meetings with representatives across the sector such as CCSD insurer leadership, hospital providers, sector bodies and consultants/practitioners. A survey was also sent to a wider stakeholder group of CCSD licence holders, other private/NHS hospital groups, other clinicians, and industry groups such as royal colleges. This engagement was then concluded with a session with the CCSD Board to synthesise key messages and agree priorities for the following 3-5 years.

The key components that drive the aims of the Strategy include:

- 1 The CCSD Group will be an inclusive sector-led group which makes decisions that benefit the whole sector
- 2 CCSD will develop and maintain a classification system which reflects the clinical activity delivered in the sector irrespective of how it is funded and paid for
- 3 CCSD will promote transparency to support healthcare delivery, safety and quality
- 4 CCSD will support the increasing move to value-based healthcare by providing standardised datasets and rules

The full CCSD 2022-2025 strategy can be read in full here: [CCSD Strategic review 2022-5](#)

## Summary of key achievements in 2023

Notable achievements in 2023 against the areas set out in the strategy are highlighted below. These are covered in more detail in the rest of this report.

- ✓ **New and improved governance arrangements**, including the appointment of the independent chair for the CCSD Board and the **development of clear business rules and terms of reference**
- ✓ **Development** of CCSD to be more **sector-led with expanded input** into the CCSD Board and technical working group from providers and wider sector organisations including Healthcode, Private Healthcare Information Network (PHIN) and Independent Healthcare Provider Network (IHPN)
- ✓ **Robotic coding review** to ensure that the Schedule(s) are aligned with the **latest surgical practices**. This has included the introduction of a broad range of robotics codes that best represent current delivery.
- ✓ **Development of training materials** to support the navigation and use of the Schedule(s) by the wider sector. This has contributed to raising the profile and importance of **standardised, consistent clinical coding** across the Schedule(s).
- ✓ **Revised funding model** to ensure that CCSD remains **sustainable and equitable** and can continue its development work. This has included an update to licence fee arrangements to extend to **hospital providers**, for which access has previously been free.
- ✓ **Chapter review** and **speciality-coding review** commencement, with the aim of being in line and up-to-date with sector developments. This has included greater involvement of the sector in scoping out the extent of the work and specialist input to guide the direction of it.

# Key achievements: A detailed look

## CCSD Board

### New Board governance arrangements

This year, CCSD has updated its governance arrangements. This has been driven by the aim to promote a broader range of insights across the sector into the Board. The inclusion of [voting hospital provider representatives and IHPN](#), along with [representatives from Healthcode](#), and PHIN, represents a key step in expanding sector engagement. CCSD’s work is aligned to that of Healthcode as the main clearing house for private sector healthcare data and claims management, and PHIN support the sector to ensure transparency and choice, as well as improve alignment with the NHS. These additions have meant that CCSD is better able to align with and be guided by the needs of the wider sector.

Additionally, a significant milestone was reached with the appointment of CCSD’s first independent chair (see below). This appointment aims to enhance sector engagement and guide CCSD through its next phase of development.

Please see here for a detailed overview of updated CCSD Governance: [Who are CCSD](#)

### Introduction to the new CCSD Board Chair

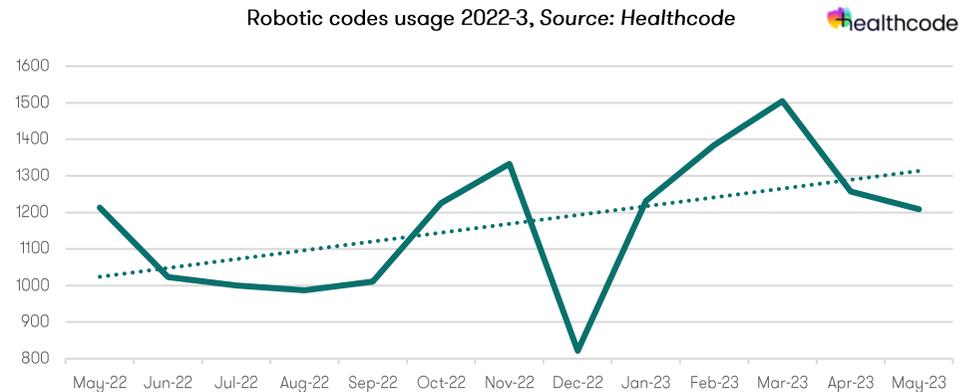


The CCSD Group is pleased to have appointed its first ever Independent chair this year, Zoltan Varga. Zoltan has diligently steered the CCSD Board throughout the past year, supporting the execution of the CCSD Strategy. Bringing a wealth of expertise as a Senior Healthcare Executive, Zoltan has extensive board-level experience and has held pivotal health leadership positions both within the UK and abroad. Please see here for further information on our new CCSD Board Chair: [CCSD appoints its first independent Chair](#).

## Code development work

### Robotic assisted surgery code development

In July 2023, the CCSD Board commissioned a review and development of robotic assisted surgery codes, aligning with the objective of the CCSD Strategy to maintain a coding system which reflects the clinical activity delivered in the sector. The drive for this initiative stemmed from the [escalating demand](#) for Robotic-assisted Surgery (RAS) codes and [heightened activity](#) observed in existing codes, as evidenced by data from Healthcode (see below).



This review was undertaken in several stages;

1. Initially, a desktop review was undertaken to understand the codes throughout the existing Schedule(s) that need to be updated and added.
2. Feedback was gathered on these code sets through [consultations with providers, insurers and suppliers](#) to understand the current position of RAS and the potential developments which may impact coding moving forwards.
3. Coding review was undertaken to align with schedule rules (see Training section overleaf for more information), evaluating the potential implications on existing codes within the Schedule(s) to ensure consistency and alignment with the broader Schedule(s).

Following this, a total of:

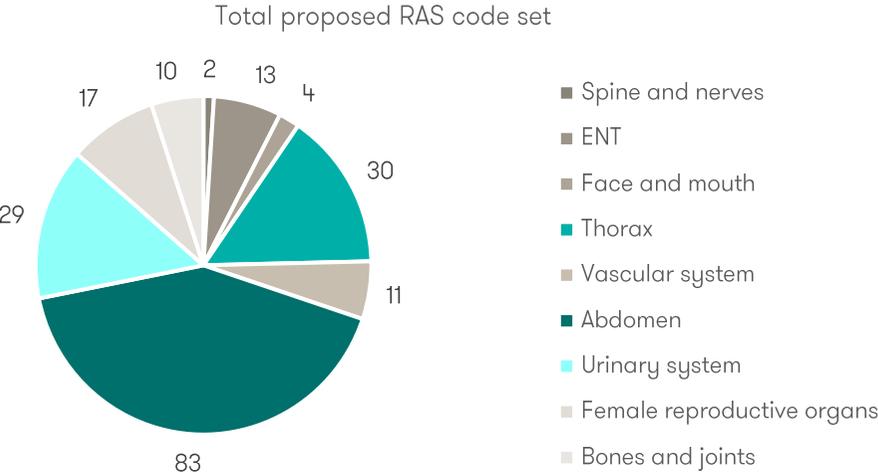


57 existing RAS codes were reviewed



141 new RAS codes were proposed

The below chart illustrates the proposed codes, split by specialty.



The new codes will be rolled out in two phases - scheduled for January and March 2024. This phased approach allows adequate time for sector-wide adoption due to the extensive nature of this work. We expect further work to be undertaken in 2024 and beyond to ensure the robotic codes continue to reflect developments in the sector.

Special acknowledgement is extended to Cleveland Clinic, HCA, Health Analytical Solutions, Intuitive Robotic Surgical Systems, and VitalityHealth for their invaluable contributions. Their expertise and specialist insights were instrumental in developing the code set.

### Gender affirmation codes chapter

Over the past 24 months, CCSD has noted a rising volume of requests pertaining to gender affirmation. This increased demand emphasised the necessity for a comprehensive review of these proposed codes to integrate them into the Schedule(s).

To facilitate this review, a gender affirmation subgroup was established within the Working Group (WG), who met to review suggested codes and consider additional narratives required for a complete code set to be launched.

The culmination of this effort resulted in a finalised list of over 50 proposed codes and accompanying narratives. Inclusivity and Diversity groups actively participated in refining the language within this set of codes, ensuring their alignment with sensitivity and inclusivity principles.

This code set will be finalised and published as a separate chapter in early 2024.

### Schedule alignment review

One objective outlined in the CCSD Strategy was the maintenance of a code classification system that accurately mirrors sector activities.

In line with this objective, a review of the Schedule(s) has been initiated. The primary goal is to achieve a higher level of consistency and precision of codes within the Schedule(s) while at the same time aligning its content with the Technical guide (see further information overleaf).

This process will unfold chapter by chapter, and in 2023 commenced with a pilot subchapter focusing on toe/ankle and knee codes. In 2024, this schedule alignment work will continue to be rolled out focusing on different chapters throughout the year.



**In total, the trial subchapter review resulted in 74 Foot and Ankle codes being reviewed with 41 suggested edits, 62 Knee codes being reviewed with 15 suggested edits, 14 ligament code reviews being reviewed with 12 new ligament codes suggested, and 7 codes were suggested to move chapter.**

## Introduction of a new funding model for licences

The CCSD funding model has been [unchanged for 20 years](#); the current model does not reflect the value and importance of CCSD to the sector and to individual organisations. The current approach is also not equitable with some users contributing to maintenance and development, but others are not.

Following the engagement of the sector, the CCSD Group has extended the fee-based licensing model to organisations presently holding free licenses (hospital providers), aligning with the established model for insurers and other users.

This strategic decision is anticipated to generate revenue crucial for ensuring the long-term sustainability of CCSD and extend its scope in line with the aims of the CCSD Strategy. This includes ensuring it is more forward-looking and keeping up to date with sector changes. Furthermore, it establishes a fairer and more equitable licensing framework while fostering the facilitation of sector-demanded developments, as outlined previously.

### Next Steps

We have commenced the roll-out of the new model with an initial group of 30 providers and are now proceeding to roll-out to all hospital providers in the sector. These changes will start to come into effect in the first quarter of 2024.

Further information on the consultation and changes can be found here: [CCSD Provider Licence Consultation](#).



## Training

CCSD has developed additional training and resources intended to support all users interact with the Schedule(s) and improve the quality of coding. These resource aid the navigation and utilisation of the Schedule(s) across the sector. These include:

1. Launching a foundational CCSD core module, developed in collaboration with specialists, providers and insurers. This module is designed to enhance users' understanding of CCSD, enabling the application of key coding principles. Its objective is to elevate sector-wide coding standards by ensuring a robust understanding of CCSD principles across the industry. Specialised training tailored to different specialties is scheduled for introduction in 2024.
2. Developing Technical Guidance which details coding conventions, guidelines for code submission, and the Working Group's criteria for code inclusion or modification. Alongside the Schedule alignment review, chapter-specific guidance will be developed.
3. Comprehensive how-to guides for navigating the website and the Schedule, complemented by instructive video walk-throughs. These resources aim to provide users with practical insights for efficient use of the CCSD's website and the Schedule(s).

All guidance can be found on the CCSD website here: [CCSD Guidance & Training](#).

## Clinical engagement

CCSD started the year with a clear desire to increase clinical input, in line with the aims of the strategy. Over the last year CCSD has increased its clinical engagement into code specific and wider development projects. This has included clinicians feeding into the robotic code set development working and testing the core training module before its launch to the wider sector.

Recognising the invaluable input clinicians make, CCSD will look to take this input a step further in 2024. This will include seeking input from Royal Colleges and special interest groups on specific development projects and code set reviews. There may also be a need for ad-hoc support into the Working Group to ensure accurate decision making around code change requests.

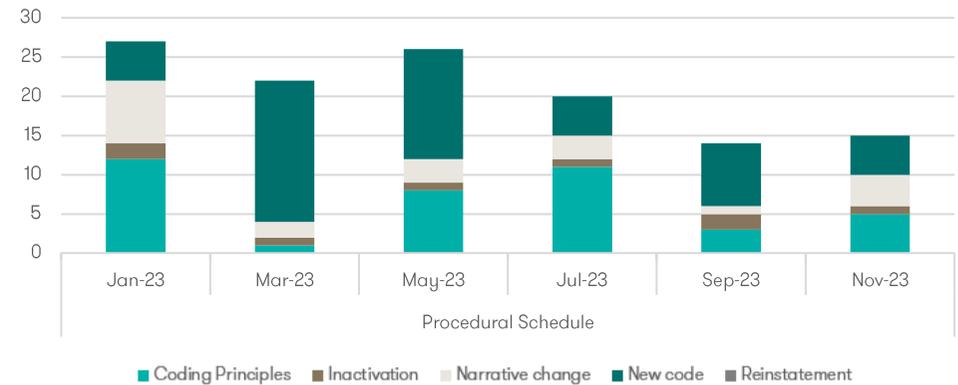
If you would like to know more about this please contact the CCSD team at [ccsd@uk.gt.com](mailto:ccsd@uk.gt.com)



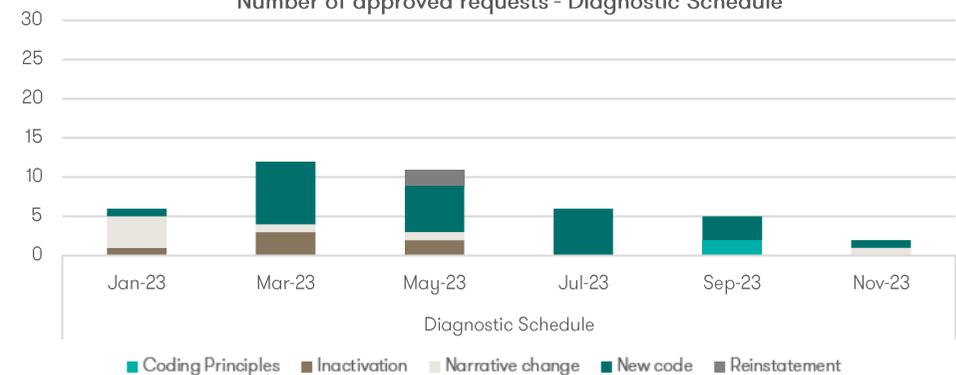
## Schedule updates in 2023

Throughout the past year, the CCSD Working Group has received numerous requests for code changes. The following analysis provides an overview of the of approved changes in 2023 for both the procedural and diagnostic test schedules.

Number of approved requests - Procedural Schedule



Number of approved requests - Diagnostic Schedule



For more detail on the timetable of publications for a given year, please see the CCSD website here: [CCSD Publication Changes](#).

# What lies ahead: Priorities for 2024

Strategically, CCSD will maintain its current direction and leadership in the sector. The focus of all future work is on addressing:

1. The effectiveness and usability of the schedule and/or
2. Driving standardisation and alignment across all areas and/or
3. Preparing the sector for future clinical coding initiatives, such as greater alignment with NHS coding standards



Future plans and initiatives for CCSD, including goals and projects in the pipeline include:

- **Diversification of CCSD's scope into new areas which add value to the sector**  
CCSD endeavours to continue to expand its work into new areas that provide added value to the sector. Following the RAS and gender affirmation code development in 2023, the CCSD Board will meet in early 2024 to consider additional areas CCSD could support.
- **Refreshed operations and processes**  
At the start of 2024 CCSD will undertake a review of its operations and following this, will consider investment in new technology and improving processes to support wider access to the Schedule and better functionality of the website for external users.
- **Ongoing training development and schedule review**  
This involves the alignment reviews of CCSD chapters throughout 2024. Upon completion, specialised training modules tailored to each chapter will be released, along with the integration of chapter-specific guidance into the CCSD Technical Guidance.
- **Licence review**  
Following the review of primary licences in 2023, secondary licences will be reviewed in 2024 along with scoping the potential for international licences following enquiries to use the CCSD Schedule by overseas organisations
- **Communication and engagement**  
CCSD will formulate a strategic plan that will define how we share key Schedule modifications and communicate ongoing development to the broader sector.

The Clinical Coding  
& Schedule  
Development Group ©