CCSD

A common language
for private healthcare

CCSD Annual Report 2024

Contents

CCSD

A common language
for private healthcare

Introduction

An overview of 2024 reflections presented in this document

As we present the annual report for the past year, we are proud to highlight the key achievements and initiatives undertaken by CCSD.

Over the past 12 months, our focus has been on **aligning code schedules with clinical needs** and **enhancing engagement** with schedule maintenance and development. Additionally, an internal review was conducted to optimise our operational processes, ensuring efficiency for the sector. Responding to feedback from the sector, we have published **a new gender affirmation chapter**, addressing the identified need for these codes.

The continued engagement with our core module training has been progressing, with **over 60 completions of the accompanying test** since its launch in late 2023. We have continued to see wide engagement with CCSD from across the sector including providers, clinicians and insurers.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are committed to **building on the groundwork laid** in 2024 to ensure that CCSD fulfils the strategic aims set for the 2022-2025 period. We are excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead and remain dedicated to delivering value and impact in the healthcare sector.

This document contains

- A review of our delivery against the 2022-2025 strategy
- A detailed review of work undertaken in 2024
- An overview of CCSD licensing and finance
- A summary of engagement partners over the last year

Chair's message

A message rom the CCSD Board chair, Zoltan Varga

It is with great satisfaction that I present this year's summary for CCSD, reflecting a year of significant progress and achievement. Over the past twelve months, CCSD has successfully implemented a transformative new strategy, approved by the Board a year ago. This accomplishment underscores our commitment to fostering a more efficient and collaborative environment within the private healthcare sector.

One of the most notable developments during the year was the amendment of the Board's bylaws to grant voting rights to provider representatives. This progressive change reflects CCSD's dedication to inclusivity and shared governance, ensuring that diverse perspectives guide our decision-making processes.

We are particularly grateful for the exceptional contributions of Grant Thornton, whose expertise provided vital structure to our Board meetings and ensured the seamless implementation of our strategy. Their meticulous preparation and project management have been instrumental to our success.

The Board also welcomed representatives from Healthcode and PHIN, initiating a new era of operational collaboration and data exchange. These partnerships have fostered closer alignment between stakeholders, enhancing the efficiency and transparency of our work.

Throughout the year, the Board maintained its commitment to working by consensus, approving and executing several key projects. These initiatives delivered tangible benefits to both insurers and providers, reinforcing CCSD's role as a trusted intermediary in the private healthcare ecosystem.

Our ongoing efforts to improve the coding system also saw marked success. Enhanced training programs and significant improvements to our website have resulted in a more user-friendly experience, streamlining access and usability for all stakeholders.

As we look to the future, CCSD remains committed to delivering exceptional value through collaboration, innovation, and excellence. On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to our achievements this year.

CCSD
A common language
for private healthcare

How we are delivering against the strategy

CCSD

2022-2025 CCSD strategy

Purpose and aims

In 2022 the purpose and aims of CCSD were re-set to move CCSD forwards and develop its role around classification, clinical coding and data recording. The refreshed aims are outlined below.

Drive development and maintenance of classification system to accurately reflect the clinical care delivered in the independent healthcare sector

Sector led and will work in the interest of all users of the CCSD Schedule to help drive transparency of care and funding in the sector

Develop schedule(s) that support reimbursement at an appropriate level

Be forward looking and support more value-based healthcare

Work with organisations to help drive the comparability of private healthcare within the NHS

CCSD
A common language for private healthcare

How we delivered against the strategy in 2024

In 2024, CCSD delivered against key aims of the 2022-2025 strategy, including:

Sector leading and inclusive engagement

Through our increased outward engagement and strategy in 2024, we were able to connect with stakeholders in new sectors including robotic assisted surgery and the British Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society. PHIN and Healthcode remain key collaborators, with increased cross-collaboration in 2024 and further joint working planned for 2025.

A classification system that reflects clinical activity in the sector

As part of our aim to develop and maintain a system which reflects clinical activity within the sector we introduced two new code streams in 2023: the robotic assisted surgery code set and the new gender affirmation chapter.

To increase our capacity to carry out development of new code sets and chapters we undertook a review of the CCSD processes to shape a new data-informed way of working.
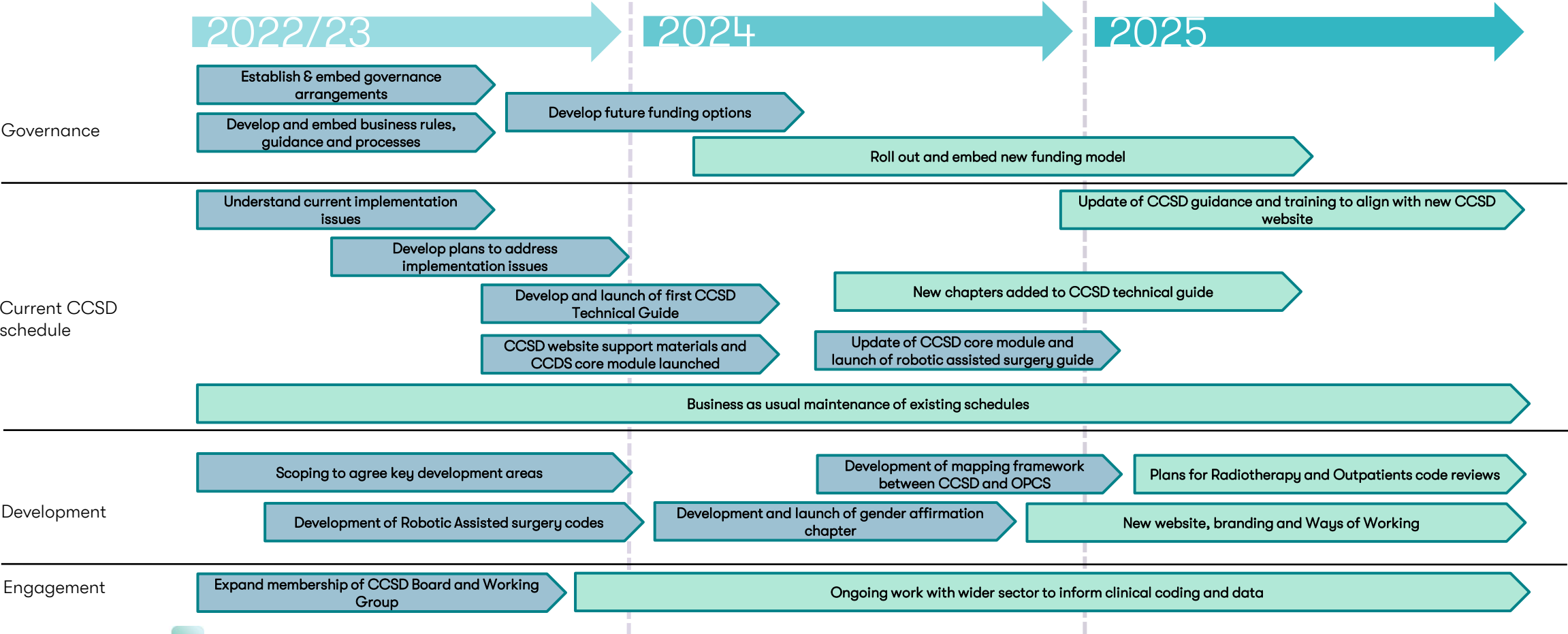
Valued-based care and standardised data

As part of our aim to support value-based care through standardised data, CCSD completed a mapping exercise to map the OPCS to CCSD codes. This piece allows for greater alignment between CCSD and the NHS.

CCSD
A common language for private healthcare

CCSD strategy 2022-2025

A review of progress against the CCSD strategy including a forward look to 2025

Key | Completed work | BAU or ongoing in 2025

2022/23 | **2024** | **2025**

Governance

- Establish & embed governance arrangements
- Develop and embed business rules, guidance and processes
- Develop future funding options
- Roll out and embed new funding model

Current CCSD schedule

- Understand current implementation issues
- Develop plans to address implementation issues
- Develop and launch of first CCSD Technical Guide
- CCSD website support materials and CCDS core module launched
- Update of CCSD core module and launch of robotic assisted surgery guide
- New chapters added to CCSD technical guide
- Update of CCSD guidance and training to align with new CCSD website
- Business as usual maintenance of existing schedules

Development

- Scoping to agree key development areas
- Development of Robotic Assisted surgery codes
- Development and launch of gender affirmation chapter
- Development of mapping framework between CCSD and OPCS
- Plans for Radiotherapy and Outpatients code reviews
- New website, branding and Ways of Working

Engagement

- Expand membership of CCSD Board and Working Group
- Ongoing work with wider sector to inform clinical coding and data

CCSD

A common language for private healthcare

What lies ahead: Priorities for 2025

The focus of 2025 development work is around realising the opportunity linked to the groundwork and investment set up in 2024

CCSD is committed to continued **coding and schedule maintenance and improvement**. CCSD will be completing a gap analysis of the robotic, open, and minimally invasive codes that exist in the schedule. This is in line with CCSD commitment to maintaining, improving, and developing the CCSD schedule to keep up with advancements in the sector.

Code change requests from the sector will be smoother following the Ways Of Working project in 2024, and this will be monitored throughout 2025.

This year CCSD has leveraged clinical engagement through forums such as the Clinical Advisory Group, the Technical Code Set Review Group, the British Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (BOFAS), and individual engagements with clinical experts. In 2025, CCSD continues **to prioritise clinical engagement with expert advisors.**

CCSD continues to expand its work into new areas that provide **added value to the sector**. Notably, this includes the recent introduction robotic assisted surgery codes, the gender affirmation chapter, the alignment reviews, and the CCSD-OPCS mapping. CCSD will consider undertaking work to understand if a coding approach change is needed to account for procedures performed in an outpatient setting.

Continued schedule maintenance, improvement and development

Enhanced sector engagement and training

Potential diversification of CCSD's scope into novel areas which add value to the sector

2024: A year in detail

CCSD

Key achievements in 2024

An overview of the highlights of 2024 for CCSD across different areas of work

Over **400 code amendments** to the procedural schedule

Roll-out of new **licence and funding** model

Mapping framework tool and supporting guidance for **CCSD to OPCS**

Updated **ways of working** to forge stronger partnerships with the sector

CCSD core **training** completed over 60 times with improved clinical engagement around **code development**

Chapter reviews with specialist engagement - *Gender affirmation, Foot and Ankle and RAS alignment*

CCSD
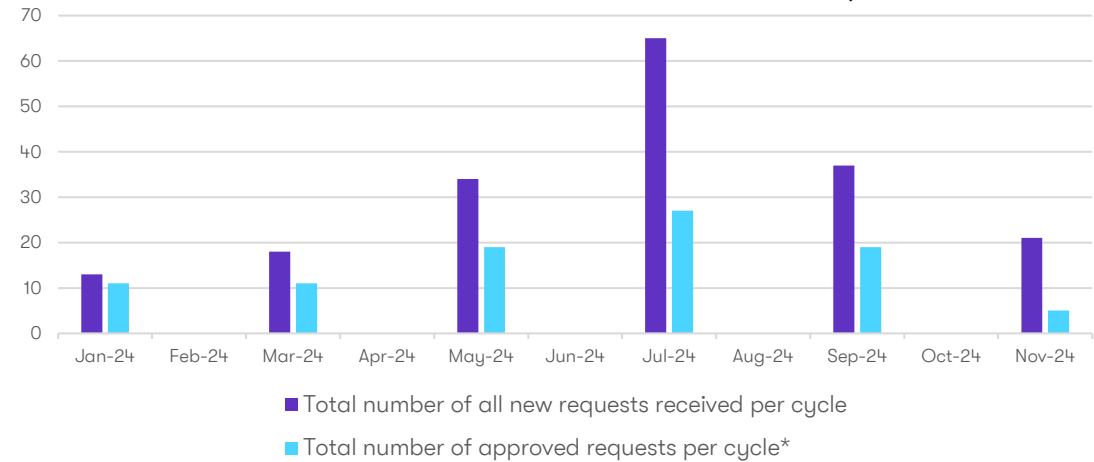A common language for private healthcare
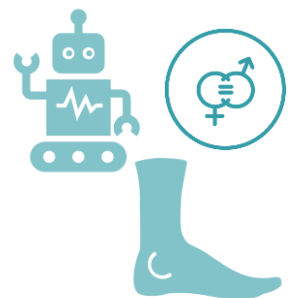
Schedule amendments in 2024

An overview of schedule changes throughout 2024

Number of approved requests (BAU code change requests submitted via CCSD website)

- Total number of all new requests received per cycle
- Total number of approved requests per cycle*

CCSD schedule changes are made either through new code change requests to the CCSD website, or via specific development projects. Business as usual (BAU) code change requests made through the website are voted on by the CCSD Working Group, and can be accepted, declined or placed on hold for further consideration.

In July 2024 over 60 request were made as part of the BAU process. A number of these were related to one area of the schedule which has been earmarked as a development area for the future; as such these requests are currently on hold.

Total of code changes per cycle (BAU and development)

- Coding Principals
- Inactivation
- Narrative Change
- New Code
- Reinstatement
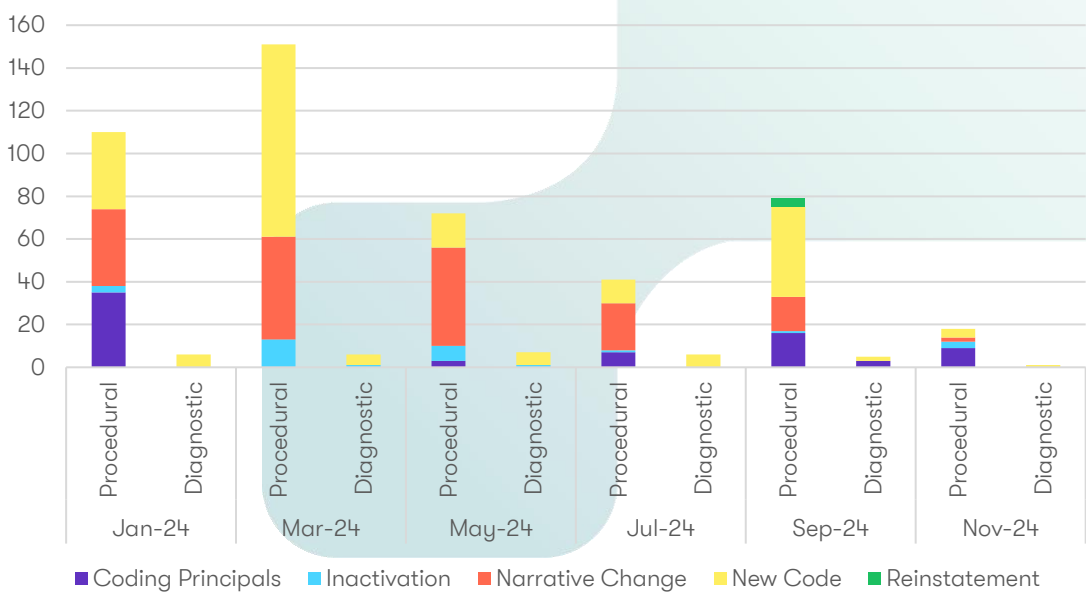
During 2024 the procedural schedule has seen a number of significant developments, including the launch of the RAS codes in January and March 2024, and the launch of the gender affirmation chapter in September 2024. The volume of code changes associated with this work can be seen by the significant peaks during those months.

Maintenance of the diagnostic schedule continues, although only 13 new code requests have been adopted for this in the last 12 months.

CCSD
A common language
for private healthcare

CCSD to OPCS mapping

Development of an industry standard mapping solution for CCSD to OPCS codes

In 2024, CCSD developed a mapping tool which can be used as an industry standard to map codes from the CCSD schedule to OPCS codes used in the NHS. This supports comparability of procedures, consistency and engagement around code assignment.

In the 2024 workplan for CCSD one of the key strategy aims was to help drive comparability and consistency of healthcare data with the NHS. To facilitate this, CCSD has carried out a mapping exercise between OPCS (the NHS procedure coding) and CCSD codes. This can be used consistently across all organisations

Mapping allows greater scope for cross sector analysis and can be used by insurers and providers to compare activity for similar procedures across the NHS and independent healthcare. This development has also helped CCSD identify any gaps in the schedule which may require additional development.

The mapping uses CCSD code narratives in the current schedule as the source information for the mapping. Only information found in the existing CCSD code narrative has been used to assign corresponding OPCS code/s.

A combination of automated predictive solutions and clinical coders experienced in both private (CCSD) and NHS (OPCS) activity were used to draft the mapping between CCSD and OPCS. Draft mapping was shared with providers and insurers and input was taken to shape the tool.

The mapping tables and supporting documentation are made available to primary and secondary license holders as part of the associated license fee.

Over 3,200 CCSD codes mapped to OPCS codes

Different versions available mapped at different levels

Cross sector engagement around usage and requirements

Mapping updates aligned with CCSD schedule changes

Supporting guidance developed

CCSD
A common language for private healthcare

CCSD ways of working

Improving the way we work and our processes

In early 2024, CCSD outlined a future vision focused on investing in technology, updating processes, promoting collaboration, and leveraging data-driven insights. Since then, the organization has implemented internal process changes and external improvements to the CCSD website. Internal efforts included conducting a workshop to assess processes, develop action plans, and establish a "ways of working" steering group. Externally, CCSD collaborated with website developers to re-brand and update the website to facilitate data-driven process improvements. These changes are aimed at benefiting CCSD stakeholders while ensuring no adverse impacts on users.

Technology and systems

Our investment in the new website has allowed us to enhance our operational efficiency, leverage automation, provide personalized user experiences, and enable deeper data analysis. We are transitioning to using the website as our primary source of information, reducing the potential for errors associated with platform duplication. New workflows introduced via the website are driving end-to-end improvements within our operational processes.

Maintaining the schedule

Our approach to schedule maintenance has evolved to be more data-driven. There are now tighter processes and clear pathways for escalation. The new interactive dashboard landing pages will empower the working group to identify review needs and highlight changes since their last log-in.

Operations and processes

We are using more automation and internal dashboards to make our day-to-day processes more efficient. This has meant we have more time to focus on schedule maintenance and development work. This will also provide easier access to real-time KPI data, offering deeper insights into our activities. Our new processes and automation help to facilitate faster decision making and activity outside of our traditional meeting cycles, bringing new codes to the sector faster.

Branding update

We are excited to unveil our new logo, branding, and assets, marking the first update in over 20 years. This strategic change is a part of our new communication and engagement plan designed to elevate CCSD's visibility, bolster support for development projects, and forge stronger partnerships within the sector.

CCSD
A common language for private healthcare

Engagement and training

Engagement

Following the creation of the CCSD communication and engagement plan, CCSD has been increasing its reach to the sector including regular planned communication through new channels and more targeted response communication. CCSD has already seen the benefit of increased effort in this area and has been approached by external organisations we have not previously worked with, including the British Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society and Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Across 2024, CCSD has had regular communications with the sector across insurers, providers, users, and other stakeholder organisations. These are currently enabled through email, LinkedIn, Teams, and face to face meetings. These include but are not limited to:

Insurers	Providers	Users	Other stakeholders
• Board and Working Group • Small Insurer group updates	• IHPN update • Provider update calls • Board and Working Group	• Training materials • Coding queries • Code development	• Development project support • Improved feedback

The infrastructure and technology changes described in the Ways of Working update will enable users to access more information in required formats in their own time, thus allowing CCSD publications to focus on additional insight and support. Existing regular materials, such as the CCSD bulletin, will be updated to offer more understanding to support CCSD users. There will also be additional functionality to communicate with users of the schedule.

Training

As part of prioritising improving coding quality standards and supporting users of CCSD, training has been released for the core module and the Robotic Assisted Surgery chapter.

The training was designed to enhance understanding of what CCSD is, who uses it, and how to use it. The training provides users with information for how to search and select the most appropriate code and how to apply the CCSD coding principles.

Training completion can be aligned to CPD of clinical staff, with insurers and providers encouraged to promote CCSD training as a key development gateway before working with them. The new Ways of Working and website development planning will further support roll-out and improvement of training available. Additional modules are scheduled for 2025 following go-live of the new CCSD website.

This year we updated our core training module, which has been successfully completed 10 times since its launch. The Robotic Assisted Surgery codes bolt-on module is also now live on the CCSD website. Future training modules will also be developed in line with the alignment and development work. The CCSD technical guide was updated in October 2024.

Training modules have also helped support engagement with clinicians due to a better understanding of CCSD and its processes – this is something that we will build on in 2025 to support any additional development work required.

All guidance can be found on the CCSD website here: CCSD Guidance & Training.

Code development in 2024

A summary of key code development across 2024 with a forward look to 2025

Gender affirmation

Over 2023, CCSD received a rising volume of code requests related to gender affirmation. The increased demand for these codes emphasised the necessity for a comprehensive review of these proposed codes to integrate them into the Schedule(s).

To facilitate this review, the gender affirmation subgroup was established within the Working Group (WG). A gender affirmation development group led the review of all gender affirmation codes. These were first presented to the Working Group in September 2024. A set of principles was drafted to support consistent adoption, and the technical guide was updated with supporting guidance on how to use the new chapter. The gender affirmation chapter was published in October 2024.

Alignment review

Following the roll-out of robotic assisted surgery (RAS) codes, it was noted that the new consistent code narratives did not align with similar codes that already exist in the schedule.

An alignment review of codes for open, minimally invasive, and RAS codes was completed to ensure consistency across the narratives for the different types of procedural access.

The Working Group also undertook a review of cases where a RAS code was adopted and did not have an open or minimally invasive counterpart and clinical practice or monitoring of activity indicated that an open or minimally invasive code is required.

The schedule now has updated codes with consistent narratives in areas where RAS codes had been previously introduced, with open and minimally invasive versions where necessary.

Toe and ankle chapters

Foot and ankle surgery was highlighted through Working Group as having some inconsistent code narratives in the existing schedule. It was added to the development plan for review and update as lower limb Trauma & Orthopaedics is an area of the schedule which is frequently used.

All codes within these chapters were reviewed and suggested updates shared with the Working Group. The suggested updates were then shared with the British Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (BOFAS) for specialist input around existing codes, suggested new codes and a forward look around changes in surgical practice which may need to be considered.

The findings from the BOFAS engagement were shared with the Working Group and updates made to ensure that these chapters in the schedule are now up-to-date.

Planning for 2025

At the end of 2024, the Working Group finalised their development plan for 2025. The Working Group agreed to prioritise radiotherapy as their big development workstream for 2025.

Other smaller code improvement pieces, such as a cardiac valve surgery and spinal sympathectomy codes requiring review. Additional code improvement projects will be taken on as needed throughout 2025 when highlighted through the Working Group.

CCSD also plan to build on the improved specialist engagement in 2024 when developing codes in the schedule. Contacts from previous engagements will also be maintained and used if queries pertaining to that specialty are received in future.

CCSD
A common language for private healthcare

# Robotic assisted surgery (RAS) code development

An update on the continued development of RAS codes

In March 2024, the full set of Robotic Assisted Surgery (RAS) codes were introduced to the CCSD schedule following a period of development work with the Working Group and the sector in 2023.

The drive to introduce this chapter to the CCSD schedule stemmed from an increase in code requests to the CCSD Working Group for RAS codes and heightened activity observed in existing codes within the schedule.

Since the roll-out of our new RAS codes, we have worked with colleagues at Healthcode to monitor their uptake. Use of the codes has steadily increased, doubling in usage between 2022 and 2024 at certain points throughout the year.

RAS codes were developed in line with the CCSD Technical Guide. Following the launch of the new codes work has been carried out during 2024 and will continue in 2025 to ensure alignment of narratives for different surgical approaches for the same surgery (including open and other minimally invasive surgery). This has resulted in narrative changes to some existing codes and new codes, where this work has identified gaps in the schedule.

Source: Healthcode
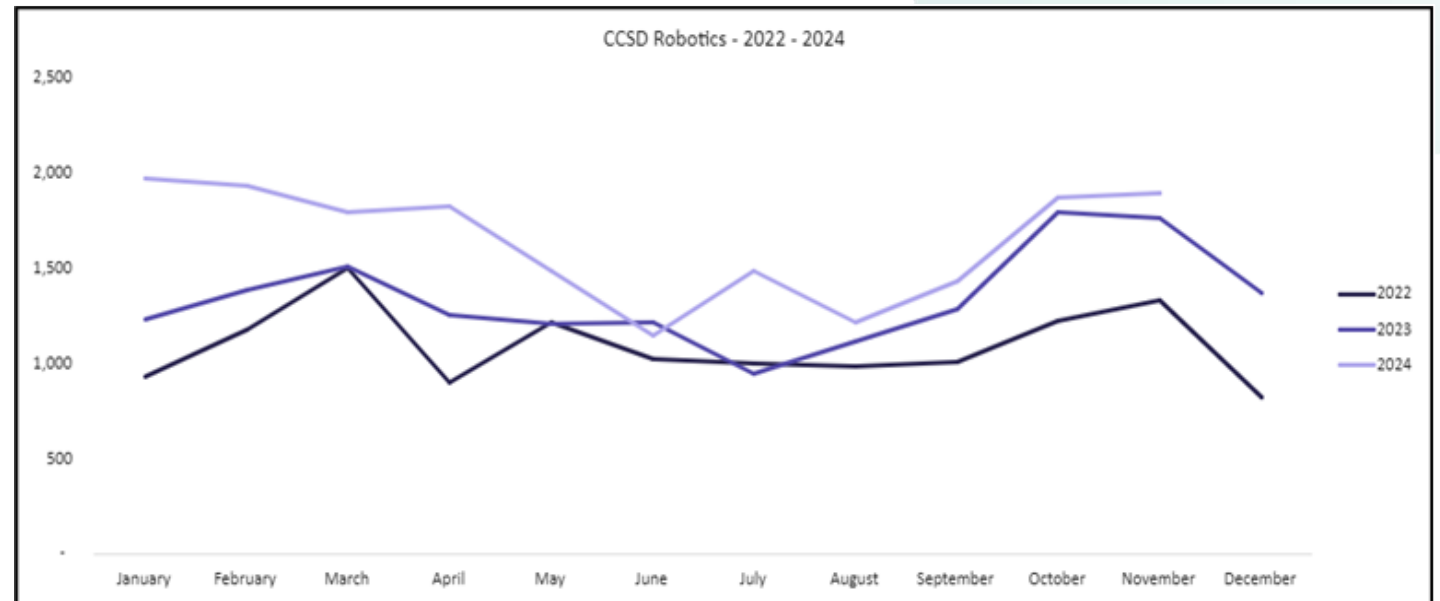
CCSD
A common language
for private healthcare

Licencing and finance

CCSD

Licencing and funding

An overview of the licencing and funding which protects CCSD and ensures its long-term sustainability

Licencing

Users of CCSD have always been required to hold a licence for making use of the codes, however there are additional benefits to holding a CCSD licence.

Who holds CCSD licences?

19 insurance organisations

37 hospital providers

14 'other' organisations such as software developers and billing companies

Benefits of a CCSD licence

- Ability to suggest schedule amendments
- Access to CCSD training resources
- Permission to use codes as part of business e.g. for reimbursement
- Access to CCSD to OPCS mapping tool
- Coding query support from CCSD team
- Access to schedule downloads and mapping tools and guidance

Overview of CCSD funding

CCSD operates on a not for profit basis, with funds raised from annual licence fees from those making use of the codes. This means that all those who use the codes as part of their business contribute to the maintenance and development of the CCSD schedule(s).

All funds are used to support the maintenance and development of CCSD, and the related Schedules. The budget is set annually but assumes 60% of funds will be allocated to day-to-day operations and c.40% will be allocated for development work, projects and strategy.

CCSD

A common language for private healthcare

Thank you

CCSD

A note of thanks

CCSD is supported by cross-sector engagement without whom business as usual and development projects would not be possible, thank you to those who have supported in 2024