

Greater Glasgow NHS Board
Board Meeting

 Tuesday, 18th February, 2003

Board Paper No. 2003/14

Director of Planning and Community Care
WAITING TIMES
Recommendation:

Members are asked to note progress.

A BACKGROUND

At the January, 2003 meeting, the Board noted progress towards delivering our agreed over nine-month waiting time reduction. This paper sets out the latest position.

B CURRENT POSITION – 9 MONTH WAITING TIME TARGET

NHSGG residents with Guarantee

Trust	April	November	December	January Provisional	March Target
North Glasgow	487	403	384	408	182
South Glasgow	341	415	342	443	143
Yorkhill	12	7	1	2	0
Total	840	825	727	853	325

FACTORS AFFECTING THE MARCH 2003 POSITION

North Glasgow Trust is experiencing problems associated with theatre maintenance, the replacement of instrument washers and changes to working practices in TSSU in order to comply with recommendations of the Glennie report. These factors in addition to winter pressures are having an impact on achieving the March target. Proposals to address the activity shortfall include opening additional orthopaedic beds in the Jubilee building at GRI in advance of the transfer of plastic surgery transfer from the Canniesburn site; early commissioning of Jubilee theatres to offset lost sessions in the GRI theatres during backlog maintenance; and additional external activity commissioned outwith NHS Glasgow. However even with the planned additional activity there is the potential for a shortfall against target.

South Glasgow Trust is experiencing problems including the temporary closure of beds at the Victoria Infirmary, and shortage of nursing staff. This is particularly acute in theatres where there are currently over 40 vacancies. Delayed discharges continue to be a significant issue.

The above risks were highlighted in the Interim Chairman's letter to Malcolm Chisholm (attachment 1 to the October Board paper) in which he made the point that the targets were susceptible to a number of factors including the pressure on acute receiving and its impact on elective capacity, the challenges in sustaining nurse staffing levels and the on going impact of the reduction in junior doctors' hours.

EMBARGOED UNTIL DATE OF MEETING.

These risks were also highlighted in the Waiting Times and Standards 2002/03 paper (September Board) which laid out GGNHSB's submission to the National Waiting Times Unit (NWTU) and described how we aimed to achieve our accountability review target to reduce the numbers of over 9 month waiters (with guarantees) by 50% by March 2003.

At the January Board meeting, additional information was requested on >9 month waits with guarantee exception codes applied and also patients who were being treated within guarantee targets.

- Table 1 contains details of patients with guarantee exception codes.
- Table 2 presents the total waits >9 months
- Table 3 presents the latest quarterly trends in patients who were treated and were admitted within 9 months.
- Table 4 presents the median wait in days.

Supplementary notes are detailed below as further explanation to tables 4 and 5.

Table 1 - NHSGG residents waiting >9 months with Guarantee Exceptions Codes

Trust	April	November	December	January Provisional
North Glasgow	259	360	384	353
South Glasgow	277	400	546	542
Yorkhill	55	26	23	22
Total	591	786	953	917

Table 2 - NHSGG residents - All Waits >9 Months

Trust	April	November	December	January Provisional
North Glasgow	746	763	768	761
South Glasgow	618	815	888	985
Yorkhill	67	33	24	24
Total	1,431	1,611	1,680	1,770

NHSGG - RETROSPECTIVE WAITING TIMES
TRENDS IN QUARTERLY INPATIENT/DAY CASE DISCHARGES
ISD Scotland - National Statistics Release

TABLE 3 - % WHO WAITED <9 MONTHS

	Latest Quarterly Trends				
	Sep 2001	Dec 2001	Mar 2002	Jun 2002	Sep 2002
Scotland	96	96	96	96	95
NHSGG	97	97	96	97	97
NGT	97	97	96	97	96
SGT	96	96	96	96	96
YORK	93	95	96	94	93

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TABLE 4 - MEDIAN WAIT IN DAYS

	Latest Quarterly Trends				
	Sep 2001	Dec 2001	Mar 2002	Jun 2002	Sep 2002
Scotland	34	32	34	33	35
NHSGG	31	27	27	30	29
NGT	25	21	23	25	23
SGT	54	51	50	48	53
YORK	41	34	29	28	34

The above information demonstrates that overall NHSGG is successful in ensuring that the large majority of patients receive their treatment within the 9 month guarantee period.

Notes - tables 3 and 4

1. Tables 3 and 4 are based on elective discharges from the true waiting list.
2. All waiting times shown are retrospective and represent the waiting times experience of patients who received their treatment in the quarters shown.
3. The waiting time for inpatient/day case admission is derived for all patients who are routinely admitted from the true waiting list. The waiting time is defined as the difference in days from the date the patient was placed on the waiting list to the date of admission.
4. The median wait, for inpatients and day cases, is the number of *days* half of the patients will wait less than, and the other half will wait more than.

UPDATE ON NATIONAL TARGETS

The First Minister announced on the 11th February that the current target of 26 weeks for an outpatient consultation will be accelerated by one year to 2005 and that a more accurate system of recording and monitoring the number of people waiting for an outpatient appointment will be introduced.

He also announced that within cardiac surgery from 2004 there will be a guarantee that patients will not wait more than 18 weeks from diagnosis to treatment.

We will address the above as part of the planning process for 2003/04

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