

Greater Glasgow NHS Board

Board Meeting

Tuesday, 18th November, 2003

Board Paper No. 2003/71

Director of Planning and Community Care

WAITING TIMES

Recommendation:

Members are asked to note progress.

A. BACKGROUND

This report provides monitoring information on our progress against the key national target to have no over 9 months waits from December, 2003.

B. CURRENT POSITION - 9 MONTH WAITING TIME TARGET

- The provisional waiting list position at September 30 is presented in table 1 for patients waiting without availability status codes (ASCs). Table 2 presents the numbers of patients with ASCs - e.g. where a patient has asked to defer admission for personal reasons.

Table 1 - All NHS Board residents without ASCs

Trust	July	August	September	October	December Target
North Glasgow	582	587	423	419	0
South Glasgow	409	472	351	232	0
Yorkhill	0	0	0	0	0
Total	991	1,059	774	651	0
Total - last year 2002/03	1,410	1,562	1,415	1,283	na

Note - The waiting list peaked in August last year at 1,562 and thereafter reduced by approximately 1,000 to 573 in March this year, thereby achieving our 2002/03 targets.

There are currently 651 patients waiting over 9 months at the end of October with no ASC codes applied. This represents a decrease of 123 or 16% on the position last month. A further comparison between the months of October 2002 and 2003 shows an improved position from 1,283 to 651 - a decrease this year of 632 or 49%.

Please refer to - Weekly Monitoring and Review - for latest position to 10th November.

EMBARGOED UNTIL DATE OF MEETING.

Table 2 - All NHS Board residents with ASCs

Trust	July	August	September	October
North Glasgow	4,161	4,022	4,015	4,058
South Glasgow	1,856	1,903	1,887	1,981
Yorkhill	338	358	339	337
Total	6,355	6,283	6,241	6,376

More details are presented in Attachment 1.

Specific proposals to reduce the number of patients waiting over 9 months with ASC codes will be included as part of our medium term plans for 2004/05.

In-year performance review and risk assessment

In order to ensure that we deliver the planned position of no waits over 9 months by December we have agreed a number of further initiatives in conjunction with the Trusts. We have secured £709k additional funding from the National Waiting Times Unit (NWTU) to support this.

Specific action to maintain delivery of the plan

We reported last month that revised Trust Plans, which reflect the actual position to the end of September, will be submitted to the SEHD. The revised plans will include further activity in orthopaedic surgery, general surgery and urology to take account of the under performance to September. The additional activity will include a mix of private sector and in-house capacity, predominately in the private sector.

Winter Planning

In addition to the above action, additional capacity has been sought from the Golden Jubilee National Hospital and the private sector as a 'buffer' for the winter in case we have to postpone in-house elective surgery in order to treat medical emergencies. Investment - £500k has been allocated for this purpose.

Weekly monitoring and review

We reported last month that we would now be monitoring variances in the >9 month waiting time position on a weekly basis. Performance improvement over the last two weeks has been favourable and is summarised below:

- An overall NHSGG reduction over the last 2 weeks of 234 or 27%, from 867 to 633.
- An overall NHSGG reduction in the last week of 116, from 749 to 633.

Please refer to Chart 1 for the trend over the last 8 weeks.

Director of Planning and Community Care

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**WAITING TIMES
DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN AVAILABILITY STATUS CODES (ASCs)**

At the May Board meeting it was reported that:

- There is no longer a deferred list. All patients will be on the unified list.
- The unified waiting list is made up of two categories:

Patients without Availability Status Codes (ASCs)

Patients with ASCs

- The Availability Status Code removes the concept of guarantees and associated exceptions and replaces them with codes that describe availability for treatment.

Each patient whose circumstances prevent them from receiving an offer of admission for the specialty or procedure will have an ASC code applied.

It was also agreed that future reports would provide additional information to differentiate between ASC codes.

- Schedule 1 to this paper presents a definition of each ASC.
- Schedule 2 presents the waiting list position for patients with ASCs at October 31, 2003

AVAILABILITY STATUS CODES (ASCs) DEFINITIONS

2	Where the patient has asked to delay admission for personal reasons or has refused a reasonable offer of admission.	Considered mainly PATIENT driven
3	In individual cases where, after discussion with the patient, the treatment has been judged of low clinical priority.	Considered mainly SERVICE driven
4	With highly specialised treatments identified at the time of placing the patient on the waiting list.	Considered mainly SERVICE driven
8	Where the patient did not attend nor give any prior warning.	Considered mainly PATIENT driven
9	In circumstances of exceptional strain on the NHS such as a major disaster, major epidemic or outbreak of infection, or service disruption caused by industrial action.	Considered mainly SERVICE driven
A	Patients under medical constraints (condition other than that requiring treatment) which affected their ability to accept and admission date, if offered.	Considered mainly PATIENT driven

**PATIENTS WAITING WITH AVAILABILITY STATUS CODES
NORTH, SOUTH AND YORKHILL TRUSTS - OCTOBER 31, 2003**

(To be read in conjunction with ASC definitions - see Schedule 1)

Table 1 - All Trusts

OVER 9 MONTH WAITS	ASC Code							Total
	2	3	4	8	9	A	X	
Patients Waiting	2,807	52	1,179	964	156	1,218	na	6,376
% Distribution by ASC	44%	1%	18%	15%	2%	19%	na	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs				Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs			
	78%				22%			

Table 2 - All Trusts

UNDER 9 MONTH WAITS	ASC Code							Total
	2	3	4	8	9	A	X	
Patients Waiting	1,588	14	311	866	2	774	na	3,555
% Distribution by ASC	45%	0%	9%	24%	0%	22%	na	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs				Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs			
	91%				9%			

Table 3 - All Trusts

ALL WAITS	ASC Code							Total
	2	3	4	8	9	A	X	
Patients Waiting	4,395	66	1,490	1,830	158	1,992	na	9,931
% Distribution by ASC	44%	1%	15%	18%	2%	20%	na	%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs				Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs			
	83%				17%			

Note - ASC temporary code X is not applicable effective from October 2003.

EMBARGOED UNTIL DATE OF MEETING.

Chart 1

WEEKLY WAITING TIME COMPARISON - >9 MONTH WAITS (WITH NO ASCs)

