

Greater Glasgow NHS Board

Board Meeting

Tuesday, 20th April, 2004

Board Paper No. 2004/26

Director of Planning and Community Care

WAITING TIMES

Recommendation:

Members are asked to note progress.

A. BACKGROUND

At the January 2004 meeting, the Board noted that the national targets that we now need to address are:

- No inpatient/day case waits in excess of 6 months to be achieved by December 2005
- No outpatient waits in excess of 26 weeks to be achieved by December 2005
- Also, to continue to deliver and sustain all existing targets and guarantees e.g. cancer and CHD specific

Our reporting has now changed from specifically monitoring >9 month waits, to 6 to 9 month waits for inpatients and day cases. As before, this is presented separately for residents without ASCs and those with ASCs. Over the coming months we will develop this further to include outpatients as well as performance against the targets as set out in our plans for 2004/05.

The Challenge ahead

It is considered that sustaining the 9 month maximum wait guarantee is a major challenge. Also, the move towards delivering a 6 month maximum wait in a constrained resource environment will be serious problem, when set alongside the outpatient target.

B. CURRENT WAITING TIME FOR INPATIENTS AND DAY CASES

- The provisional waiting list position at March 31 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 - Current waiting time in months - All NHS Board residents without ASCs

Trust	0 - 3	3 - 6	6 - 7	7 - 8	8 - 9	>9	Total	>6
North	7,771	2,790	496	294	100	0	11,451	890
South	4,079	2,107	390	187	97	0	6,860	674
Yorkhill	1,051	546	57	14	7	0	1,675	78
Total	12,901	5,443	943	495	204	0	19,986	1,642

EMBARGOED UNTIL DATE OF MEETING.

We are currently sustaining the 9 month guarantee and >6 month waits reduced by 281 or 15% between February and March. This builds on a reduction of 179 or 8.5% between January and February.

Table 2 – Current waiting time in months - All NHS Board residents with ASCs

Trust	0 - 3	3 - 6	6 - 7	7 - 8	8 - 9	>9	Total	>6
North	632	718	188	172	256	4,155	6,121	4,771
South	257	385	184	174	178	2,211	3,389	2,747
Yorkhill	178	194	46	36	55	297	806	434
Total	1,067	1,297	418	382	489	6,663	10,316	7,952

Patients waiting with ASC codes reduced by 159 between February and March - 212 were in the >6 month wait band. This builds on a reduction of 154 in total ASCs and 153 specifically for >6 month waits between January and February.

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 March 31, 2004

The format in schedule 2 has now changed from monitoring all Trusts together for >9, <9 and all waits, to separate tables for each Trust, for all waits (with a GGNHSB total).

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. An administrative and clinical review of all patients waiting with ASCs is now complete. We plan to present a summary of the review to a Board meeting in the near future.

Plans - 2004/05

In conjunction with the Trusts, we are preparing our plans for incremental performance improvement in waiting times in 2004/05, moving towards achieving the December 2005 targets.

Director of Planning and Community Care

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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
ALL TRUSTS, NORTH, SOUTH AND YORKHILL - MARCH 31, 2004**
(To be read in conjunction with ASC definitions - see Schedule 1)

Table 1 - All Trusts

ALL WAITS	ASC Code						
	2	3	4	8	9	A	Total
Patients Waiting	4,547	180	1,386	1,978	101	2,124	10,316
% Distribution by ASC	44%	2%	13%	19%	1%	21%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs				Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs		
	84%				16%		

Table 1 - North Glasgow

ALL WAITS	ASC Code						
	2	3	4	8	9	A	Total
Patients Waiting	2,744	0	836	1,127	0	1,414	6,121
% Distribution by ASC	45%	0%	14%	18%	0%	23%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs				Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs		
	86%				14%		

Table 1 - South Glasgow

ALL WAITS	ASC Code						
	2	3	4	8	9	A	Total
Patients Waiting	1,596	43	394	653	101	602	3,389
% Distribution by ASC	47%	1%	12%	19%	3%	18%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs				Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs		
	84%				16%		

Table 1 - Yorkhill

ALL WAITS	ASC Code						
	2	3	4	8	9	A	Total
Patients Waiting	207	137	156	198	0	108	806
% Distribution by ASC	26%	17%	19%	25%	0%	13%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs				Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs		
	64%				36%		