

Greater Glasgow NHS Board

Board Meeting

Tuesday, 18th May, 2004

Board Paper No. 2004/35

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 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 numbers of patients waiting over 6 months at April 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 - Current numbers waiting >6 months - All NHS Board residents without ASCs

Division	Mar-04	Apr-04	Monthly Variance	% Variance
North	890	970	+80	+9%
South	674	747	+73	+11%
Yorkhill	78	121	+43	+55%
Total	1,642	1,838	+196	+12%

EMBARGOED UNTIL DATE OF MEETING.

We are currently sustaining the 9 month guarantee and >6 month waits increased by 196 or 12% between March and April. It should be noted that the increase in April is representative of the annual waiting list cycle i.e. when last years waiting list initiatives cease and this years are starting and have yet to make an impact.

Table 2 - Current numbers waiting >6 months - All NHS Board residents with ASCs

Division	Mar-04	Apr-04	Variance	% Variance
North	4,771	4,717	-54	-1%
South	2,747	2,828	+81	+3%
Yorkhill	434	463	+29	+7%
Total	7,952	8,008	+56	+1%

The number of patients waiting over 6 months with ASC codes increased marginally by 56 or 1% between March and April 2004.

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 April 30, 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 Division, for all waits (with a GGNHSB total).

An administrative and clinical review of all patients waiting with ASCs is now complete. We plan to present a summary of the review to the June 2004 Board meeting.

Plans - 2004/05

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

Initial Investments to Deliver December 2005 Targets

We have agreed initial funding for priority areas as follows:

- Anaesthetics, theatres and in-house working - £1.961m in 2004/5
- An additional £5.036m for the further investment priorities identified by Divisions in 2004/5.
- The combined investment at this point is £6.997m. This does not yet include the cost of theatre staff for the North Glasgow Division.
- The above is subject to further strands of work that need to be commenced/concluded quickly in a number of areas including oral, neurology, breast and orthopaedics (North) prior to actual funding levels being finalised and made available.

New Ways Of Defining And Measuring Waiting Across The NHS In Scotland

EMBARGOED UNTIL DATE OF MEETING.

A brief extract from the above is set out below:

- A Project Board was set up in April 2004 by the Scottish Executive Health Department to plan and guide the introduction of new ways of defining and measuring waiting across the NHS in Scotland.
- Against that background, Ministers have asked the Department to work with NHS Scotland towards the abolition of ASCs.
- NHS Boards must continue to deliver the current stringent waiting times guarantees while the new definitions etc are being implemented. The aim should be to implement the changes by end-2006.

We will keep Board members appraised of progress.

Director of Planning and Community Care

0141 201 4607

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 DIVISIONS, NORTH, SOUTH AND YORKHILL - APRIL 30, 2004**

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

Table 1 - All Divisions

ALL WAITS	ASC Code						
	2	3	4	8	9	A	Total
Patients Waiting	4,631	185	1,303	2,003	68	2,129	10,319
% Distribution by ASC	45%	2%	13%	19%	1%	21%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs				Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs		
	85%				15%		

Table 1 - North Glasgow Division (NGD)

ALL WAITS	ASC Code						
	2	3	4	8	9	A	Total
Patients Waiting	2,767	0	746	1,100	0	1,427	6,040
% Distribution by ASC	46%	0%	12%	18%	0%	24%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs				Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs		
	88%				12%		

Table 1 - South Glasgow Division (SGD)

ALL WAITS	ASC Code						
	2	3	4	8	9	A	Total
Patients Waiting	1,664	40	403	675	68	599	3,449
% Distribution by ASC	48%	1%	12%	20%	2%	17%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs				Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs		
	85%				15%		

Table 1 - Yorkhill

ALL WAITS	ASC Code						
	2	3	4	8	9	A	Total
Patients Waiting	200	145	154	228	0	103	830
% Distribution by ASC	24%	17%	19%	27%	0%	12%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs				Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs		
	64%				36%		