

Greater Glasgow NHS Board

Board Meeting

Tuesday, 22nd February, 2005

Board Paper No. 2005/15

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 6 months to be achieved by December 2005
- Also, to continue to deliver and sustain all existing targets and guarantees e.g. cancer and CHD specific

Updated Reporting

Our reporting has been updated from monitoring >6 waits for inpatients and day cases, which is presented separately for residents without ASCs and those with ASCs, to include outpatient waiting times.

B. CURRENT WAITING TIME FOR INPATIENTS AND DAY CASES

- The numbers of patients waiting over 6 months at January 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.

Table 1 - Current numbers waiting >6 months - All NHS Board residents without ASCs

Division	Mar-04 Baseline	Dec-04	Jan-05	Dec - Jan Variance	% Variance
North	890	411	425	+14	+3%
South	674	495	446	-49	-10%
Yorkhill	78	373	329	-44	-12%
Total	1,642	1,279	1,200	-79	-6%

Over 6 month waits reduced by 79 or 6% between December and January. Plans are in place to substantially reduce the Yorkhill position over the final quarter of 2004/05.

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

Division	Mar-04 Baseline	Dec-04	Jan-05	Dec - Jan Variance	% Variance
North	4,771	4,759	4,660	-99	-2%
South	2,747	2,982	2,882	-100	-3%
Yorkhill	434	552	595	+43	+8%
Total	7,952	8,293	8,137	-156	-2%

The number of patients waiting over 6 months with ASC codes reduced by 156 or 2% between December and January.

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 January 31, 2005

C. CURRENT WAITING TIME FOR NEW OUTPATIENTS

Currently there are 13,470 outpatients waiting longer than the National target of a 26 week maximum wait - this reduced by 3,070 or 19% between November and December 2004.

We reported to the Board in October that we are working on plans to eliminate all waits over 52 weeks as a first step to achieving our targets. In August, the numbers waiting over 52 weeks was 6,756 - this has now reduced to 4,985 at the end of December - a reduction of 1,771 or 26%.

Table 3 - Current numbers waiting >6 months - All NHS Board residents - GP/GDP Referrals

Division	Oct-04	Nov-04	Dec-04	Nov - Dec Variance	% Variance
North	12,889	11,586	10,292	-1,294	-11%
South	4,980	4,871	3,113	-1,758	-36%
Yorkhill	143	83	65	-18	-22%
Total	18,012	16,540	13,470	-3,070	-19%

Note - The South and Yorkhill Divisions include all referrals sources, which are presented as a proxy for GP/GDP referrals - at present GP/GDP referrals cannot be shown separately.

D. PERFORMANCE AGAINST MILESTONES

NHS Greater Glasgow has agreed to 2 main waiting time milestones (numbers waiting beyond 26 weeks for outpatients, inpatients/day cases) in 2004/05 – for December 2004 and for March 2005. These milestones were agreed as part of the 2004 Accountability Review process.

December 2004

As the table below shows NHSGG achieved the December 2004 milestone.

Patient Type	December, 2004 Milestone	Numbers Waiting at December 2004
In-patient/Day Cases	1,335	1,279
Out-patients	14,969	13,470

March 2005

At this point, plans are in place and on track to ensure delivery of the March 2005 milestone of a maximum of 12,000 outpatients and 700 inpatients/day cases waiting longer than 26 weeks.

Planning for 2005/06

No milestones have been agreed for the period from April to December 2005 inclusive. It is important however that we continue to phase the reduction in waiting times so that we both deliver the December 2005 target and are well placed to sustain it thereafter. By December 2005, NHSGG will have no patient waiting beyond 6 months for an outpatient appointment or for the subsequent inpatient/day case treatment that may be required.

E. NEW WAITING TIME TARGETS

In December 2004, the Health Minister announced a new set of waiting time targets.

These are:

By the end of 2007

- No patient will wait more than eighteen weeks from GP referral to an outpatient appointment. (There is no current maximum wait standard set; there is, however, a commitment to achieve a maximum wait of twenty-six weeks by December, 2005);
- No patient will wait more than eighteen weeks from a decision to undertake treatment to the start of that treatment. (The current maximum wait guarantee stands at nine months, with a commitment to reduce this to six months by December, 2005);
- Shorter maximum waiting times are being introduced for specific conditions:
 - eighteen weeks from referral to completion of treatment for cataract surgery.
 - four hours from arrival to admission, discharge or transfer for Accident and Emergency treatment.

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- twenty-four hours from admission to a specialist unit for hip surgery following fracture.
- sixteen weeks from GP referral through a rapid access chest pain clinic or equivalent, to cardiac intervention.

The Minister has decided also to set new waiting time standards for key diagnostic tests and will announce these by Spring 2005. He has also decided that Availability Status Codes (ASCs) will be abolished by the end of 2007.

The Minister also announced a significant package of new investment, of £308.5 million, over a three year period. The Chief Executive of NHS Greater Glasgow has asked the Director of the National Waiting Times Unit to provide further details so that we can set about the task of developing our next set of waiting times capacity plans with an understanding of the resources which will be made available centrally to help to support that effort.

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 DIVISIONS, NORTH, SOUTH AND YORKHILL - JANUARY 31, 2005**

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

Table 1 - All Divisions

ALL WAITS	ASC Code						Total
	2	3	4	8	9	A	
Patients Waiting	4,796	242	1,155	2,170	0	2,271	10,634
% Distribution by ASC	45%	2%	11%	20%	0%	21%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs			Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs			
	87%			13%			

Table 2 - North Glasgow Division (NGD)

ALL WAITS	ASC Code						Total
	2	3	4	8	9	A	
Patients Waiting	2,803	0	497	1,279	0	1,491	6,070
% Distribution by ASC	46%	0%	8%	21%	0%	25%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs			Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs			
	92%			8%			

Table 3 - South Glasgow Division (SGD)

ALL WAITS	ASC Code						Total
	2	3	4	8	9	A	
Patients Waiting	1,805	0	499	636	0	696	3,636
% Distribution by ASC	50%	0%	14%	17%	0%	19%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs			Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs			
	86%			14%			

Table 4 - Yorkhill

ALL WAITS	ASC Code						Total
	2	3	4	8	9	A	
Patients Waiting	188	242	159	255	0	84	928
% Distribution by ASC	20%	26%	17%	27%	0%	9%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs			Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs			
	57%			43%			