

Greater Glasgow NHS Board

Board Meeting

Tuesday, 19th April, 2005

Board Paper No. 2005/36

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 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.

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

Division	Mar-04 Baseline	Feb-05	Mar-05	Feb - Mar Variance	% Variance
North	890	341	202	-139	-41%
South	674	439	231	-208	-47%
Yorkhill	78	216	98	-118	-55%
Total	1,642	996	531	-465	-47%

Over 6 month waits reduced by 465 or 47% between February and March.

EMBARGOED UNTIL DATE OF MEETING.

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

Division	Mar-04 Baseline	Feb-05	Mar-05	Feb - Mar Variance	% Variance
North	4,771	4,533	4,582	+49	+1%
South	2,747	2,763	2,684	-79	-3%
Yorkhill	434	674	733	+59	+9%
Total	7,952	7,970	7,999	+29	+ <1%

The number of patients waiting over 6 months with ASC codes marginally increased by 29 or <1% between February and March.

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, 2005

C. CURRENT WAITING TIME FOR NEW OUTPATIENTS

Currently there are 9,029 outpatients waiting longer than the National target of a 26 week maximum wait - this reduced by 2,225 or 20% between February and March.

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 2004, the numbers waiting over 52 weeks was 6,756 - this has now reduced to 2,891 at the end of March 2005 - a reduction of 3,865 or 57%.

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

Division	Jan-05	Feb-05	Mar-05	Feb - Mar Variance	% Variance
North	9,663	8,294	7,042	-1,252	-15%
South	3,003	2,930	1,987	-943	-32%
Yorkhill	49	30	0	-30	-100%
Total	12,715	11,254	9,029	-2,225	-20%

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

We reported to the Board in February, that NHSGG achieved the December 2004 milestone.

March 2005

We also reported in February that plans are in place to ensure delivery of the March 2005 milestone of a maximum of 12,001 outpatients and 700 inpatients/day cases waiting longer than 26 weeks.

Outpatient performance - As can be seen in table 3 on the previous page the outpatient milestone was achieved in February and this has now reduced further to 9,029 at the end of March. The end of year performance is therefore 2,972 or 25% better than target.

Inpatients/day case performance - It was always considered that this would be a difficult milestone to achieve - the Divisions have surpassed the target of 700 at the end of March by delivering a maximum of 531 inpatients/day cases waiting longer than 26 weeks. The end of year performance is 169 or 24% better than target.

Planning for 2005/06

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.

To achieve this, we are about to submit (and agree) milestones for waiting time performance improvement to the National Waiting Times Unit - for the quarters ending June and September 2005. These have been worked up and agreed with the Divisions over recent weeks and build on the plans that we already have in place for 2005/06. The updated plans will ensure 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.

E. NEW WAITING TIME TARGETS

We reported to the Board last month on a series of new waiting time targets to be delivered by the end of 2007.

We are currently setting about the task of developing our next set of waiting times capacity plans to take this forward - as part of the 2005/06 Local Health Planning process. This is with an initial understanding of the resources that will be made available centrally to help to support that effort. As this funding availability becomes clearer, we will have further details to report to future Board meetings.

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 - MARCH 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	4,805	281	1,117	2,108	0	2,450	10,761
% Distribution by ASC	45%	3%	10%	20%	0%	23%	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	2,779	0	467	1,284	0	1,587	6,127
% Distribution by ASC	45%	0%	8%	21%	0%	26%	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	1,783	0	450	543	0	749	3,525
% Distribution by ASC	51%	0%	13%	15%	0%	21%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs			Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs			
	87%			13%			

Table 4 - Yorkhill

ALL WAITS	ASC Code						Total
	2	3	4	8	9	A	
Patients Waiting	243	281	200	281	0	104	1,109
% Distribution by ASC	22%	25%	18%	25%	0%	9%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs			Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs			
	57%			43%			