

Greater Glasgow NHS Board

Board Meeting

Tuesday, 21st February, 2006

Board Paper No. 2006/8

Chief Executive - South Glasgow University Hospitals Division

Acting Chief Executive - North Glasgow University Hospitals Division

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 26 weeks 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

B. CURRENT WAITING TIME FOR INPATIENTS AND DAY CASES

- The numbers of patients waiting over 26 weeks at 31 December 2005 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 >26 weeks - All NHS Board residents without ASCs

Division	Oct-05	Nov-05	Dec-05	Nov - Dec Variance	% Variance
North	145	50	0	-50	-100%
South	112	94	0	-94	-100%
Yorkhill	42	43	0	-43	-100%
Total	299	187	0	-187	-100%

The 26 week maximum wait National target was delivered by the due date of 31 December 2005 - from January 2006 this is now a National standard for service delivery.

Also, please refer to Section D - New Waiting Time Targets.

EMBARGOED UNTIL DATE OF MEETING.

Table 2 - Current **total** numbers waiting - All NHS Board residents with ASCs

Division	Nov-05	Dec-05	Jan-06	Dec - Jan Variance	% Variance
North	5,331	5,309	5,125	-184	-4%
South	3,836	3,835	3,872	+37	+1%
Yorkhill	849	912	955	+43	-5%
Total	10,017	10,056	9,952	-104	-1%

The **total** number of patients waiting with ASC codes decreased by 104 or 1% between December and January. Also, please refer to Section D - New Waiting Time Targets.

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 31 January, 2006

C. CURRENT WAITING TIME FOR NEW OUTPATIENTS

We failed to make our target with one patient waiting longer than 26 weeks for an outpatient appointment at 31 December 2005. This patient was seen at an outpatient clinic on 10 January 2006. This incident highlights some problems in the processing of referrals, which have been reviewed and rectified.

The scale of the challenge in Glasgow should not be under-estimated. To put this in context, the challenge was greater than in any other part of the country and at their peak more than 25,000 outpatients were waiting longer than 26 weeks.

As with inpatients/day cases - from January 2006 a 26 week maximum wait is now a National standard for service delivery.

Also, please refer to Section D - New Waiting Time Targets.

Table 3 - Current numbers waiting **>26 weeks** - All NHS Board residents - GP/GDP Referrals

Division	Oct-05	Nov-05	Dec-05	Nov - Dec Variance	% Variance
North	1,721	540	1	-539	-100%
South	1,600	722	0	-722	-100%
Yorkhill	180	108	0	-108	-100%
Total	3,501	1,370	1	-1,369	-100%

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.

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D. NEW WAITING TIME TARGETS

In February 2005, we reported to the Board on a series of new waiting times targets that the Health Minister announced in December 2004 (set out below).

We are currently formulating specific plans to ensure delivery of each of these targets - some of which are at a more advanced stage of completion than others.

We will report to the April Board meeting in more detail on each of the plans.

The new waiting time targets are:

By the end of 2006

- 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 26 weeks from January 2006);

This target was initially planned for delivery by December 2007, however, all NHS Boards have agreed to deliver this target one year early

By the end of 2007

- No patient will wait more than eighteen weeks from GP referral to an outpatient appointment. (The current maximum wait guarantee stands at 26 weeks from January 2006);
- 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.
 - 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.
- Availability Status Codes (ASCs) will also be abolished by the end of 2007.

The Minister also decided to set new waiting time standards for key diagnostic tests.. We reported this further to the Board in July last year- as follows:

New 9 week diagnostic standards

New standards have been set for patients waiting for diagnostic tests and procedures, The new 9 week maximum wait diagnostic standards were announced in June by the Health Minister. This means patients will wait no longer than 18 weeks - including diagnostic tests - as outpatients or inpatient/day cases by the end of 2007. The new standards apply to CT, MRI, ultrasound and barium scans as well as four procedures using an endoscope or micro camera to look inside the body: upper endoscopy, cystoscopy, sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy.

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E. PLANS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2005/06

Our plans for the final quarter of 2005/06 are two-fold:

- To sustain delivery of all National standards (guarantees)
- To deliver a maximum of 1,000 inpatients/day cases (non-ASC) waiting longer than 18 weeks by 31 March 2005

To put this in context - at the end of January 2005 we had just over 4,000 patients waiting over 18 weeks and this has now reduced to 1,116 at the end of January 2006.

F. PLANS FOR 2006/07

- We have recently agreed planning milestones with the National Waiting Times Unit (NWTU) for sustained reduction in >18 week waits for inpatients/day cases from the current level to zero by December 2006.
- We have previously submitted our plans for the abolition of ASCs to the NWTU in mid 2005
- We are currently developing our plans for delivery of all of the other new targets

G. LOCAL DELIVERY PLAN (LDP)

More details on the implications of the delivery plans for each of the new targets are presented in Board Paper 2006/2 - Local Delivery Plan.

H. NEW WAYS OF MONITORING AND REPORTING

Given the range and scope of the new targets, we will need to define new ways of monitoring and reporting to each Board meeting. We will report further on this to the April meeting.

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, 2006**

(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	4,360	334	1,135	1,689	0	2,434	9,952
% Distribution by ASC	44%	3%	11%	17%	0%	24%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs			Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs			
	85%			15%			

Table 2 - North Glasgow Division (NGD)

ALL WAITS	ASC Code						Total
	2	3	4	8	9	A	
Patients Waiting	2,331	0	293	892	0	1,609	5,125
% Distribution by ASC	45%	0%	6%	17%	0%	31%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs			Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs			
	94%			6%			

Table 3 - South Glasgow Division (SGD)

ALL WAITS	ASC Code						Total
	2	3	4	8	9	A	
Patients Waiting	1,810	0	682	645	0	735	3,872
% Distribution by ASC	47%	0%	18%	17%	0%	19%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs			Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs			
	82%			18%			

Table 4 - Yorkhill

ALL WAITS	ASC Code						Total
	2	3	4	8	9	A	
Patients Waiting	219	334	160	152	0	90	955
% Distribution by ASC	23%	35%	17%	16%	0%	9%	100%
% Distribution by mainly PATIENT or SERVICE driven	Mainly PATIENT driven ASCs			Mainly SERVICE driven ASCs			
	48%			52%			