

GREATER GLASGOW NHS CAR PARKING POLICY 2005

Amended Updated February 2011

A. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 This policy has been produced as a key component of the Board's Green Transport Strategy. The primary focus is on ensuring that implementation of the Acute Services Review is underpinned by a comprehensive strategy to deal with access to our new hospitals. All car parking is free of charge at all hospitals apart from the privately operated car park at Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

The policy covers the NHS sites in Greater Glasgow (listed in 1.4 below) for a number of reasons:

- demands from Local Authorities to manage our traffic and reduce commuting by car;
- major problems for patients and visitors in parking on a number of our sites and increasing numbers of staff and patients chasing limited numbers of spaces;
- reducing the adverse impact of travel on the environment and health;
- concerns about the quality of car parking, particularly security, and the lack of resources for investment in alternatives;
- inequities in access charging and other policies between different Glasgow sites creating unfairness for staff and patients.

- 1.2 The pre- policy arrangements were characterised by:

- reserved staff parking areas, governed by various mechanisms for allocation, generally immediately adjacent to hospital buildings;
- no reserved car parking for patients beyond priority to disabled people;
- unreserved spaces available on a first come first served basis and therefore often occupied by daytime staff excluding patients/visitors and shift workers;
- nominal charges for priority access to a limited number of spaces.

As a consequence patients, visitors and staff around our larger hospital sites experienced a high degree of congestion, which in turns created overspill and environmental problems for the local surrounding population.

- 1.3 The status quo was not tenable because of the issues outlined in paragraphs 1.1 and 1.2. The arrangements had not been developed in a coherent and consistent way and lacked any explicit set of underpinning principles. The next section maps out the principles of the policy.

- 1.4 This policy applies at the undernoted acute hospital sites:

- Glasgow Royal Infirmary and PRMH;
- Gartnavel General and Royal Hospitals;
- Royal Alexandra Hospital;
- Southern General Hospital;
- Stobhill Hospital and Ambulatory Care Hospital Campus;
- Victoria Infirmary/ Ambulatory Care Hospital;
- Western Infirmary;
- Yorkhill Hospital.

In responding to the Scottish Government decision to abolish car park charging in 2008, the Board undertook not to extend the policy at Inverclyde Royal Hospital or at Vale of Leven Hospital.

- 1.5 The aims of the policy are to:

- comply with requirements of the Scottish Government in managing and controlling hospital car parks
- improve access to car parking for patients and visitors and the quality of parking facilities;
- ensure staff, patients and visitors have good access to major NHS sites;
- manage car parking efficiently, effectively and fairly, balancing the competing interests of staff, patients and visitors;
- significantly reduce the number of spaces only used once or twice each day;
- to support the aims and objectives of the 'Green Transport' strategy;
- improve inter site transport arrangements.
- ensure all car parking services and the physical infrastructure complies with Disabilities Discrimination Legislation.
- provide investment in Car Parking facilities, infrastructure and equipment on hospital sites.

The next section sets out the principles on which the detailed proposals are anchored.

- 1.6 This policy framework was developed to recognise and try to deal with the tension between the need to ensure staff can get to their workplace and make work related journeys with ease, while enabling patients and their visitors, many of whom are elderly and disabled, to have reasonable access to our hospitals. This policy was the first comprehensive, pan Glasgow attempt to face up to and address that challenge in the context of limited and reducing car parking spaces. There was no perfect solution - the proposals represent a fair compromise.

B. Principles

2.1 We propose a number of principles:

- all car parking is free of charge,
- a substantial proportion of spaces will be made available adjacent to facilities for patients and visitors, including access for disabled users;
- the rest of the proportion of spaces designated for staff will be allocated by:
 - an explicit and fair staff permit policy, and.
 - access to a limited number of first-come-first-served areas on all sites;
- initiatives will be put in place to provide alternative transport opportunities and initiatives for staff and patients/visitors.
- ways of accessing our sites in line with the Green car parks will be managed and controlled by a third party provider with expertise car parking and management.
- if cars are parked inappropriately as set out in the Policy Operational Procedures they will be liable to be issued with an Unauthorised parking Notice.
- The policy principles and management and control arrangements will comply with Scottish Government guidance and circulars on car parking and other good practice recommendations.

C. Delivering the Principles

3.1 This section outlines our proposals for the detailed policies which are required to deliver the principles set out in Section B.

3.2 For patients:

- patients and visitors areas will be sited closest to buildings and with close access to departmental entrances.
- disabled bays will be provided in sufficient numbers and be clearly identified.
- very short-term 'pick-up/drop-off' areas will be available for patients, relatives and others who are helping patients to attend hospital.

- Arrangements will be made to accommodate voluntary organisations who provide patient transport to hospital.

3.3 For staff:

- designated staff permits areas will be provided.
- permits can be made available subject to supply and demand for staff whose peripatetic duties require them to attend and park in acute hospital in the course of their duties; these would usually be community based staff.
- a limited number of spaces will be available to staff on a first come first served basis. These areas will be clearly designated.
- arrangements are in place for staff to access short term and emergency parking arrangements.
- bookable spaces will be available, subject to availability for official visitors.
- the policy is clear how breaches of the policy will be dealt with.

3.4 Alternatives:

A key commitment of the policy has been to provide assistance and initiatives to help people to use alternative ways of accessing our sites. A number of initiatives are in place and development opportunities continue to be sought.

D. Consultation

4.1 The policy was subject to:

- extensive engagement with staff and patients about the principles and content of the policy.
- full formal consultation
- a framework for implementation which provided a framework within which expert advice was commissioned and a detailed implementation plan at each site at each site.

A Greater Glasgow wide parking group and sub groups, including staff side and patient representation, was established to sign off the detailed implementation plans and establish appropriate arrangements for review of this policy and its application, including Operational Procedures.

The policy went live on 29th July 2007 and will continue to be operational at sites identified at 1.4 above.

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