Agenda Item No 59/04



From: Louise Gaffney, Acting Director of Planning

To: Trust Board 1st July 2004

Subject: Monthly Patient Access report to Trust Board - May 2004

Action: For noting

Executive Summary

Performance successes

 At the end of 2003-04 the trust improved its performance to achieve a number of significant targets. These included inpatient and outpatient waiting targets, the 2week cancer standard for urgent GP referrals, and booking.

- These standards have been maintained in the first 2 months of 2004-05.
- The Trust continued its improved performance with the A&E 4-hour total wait, where we achieved an average of 95% in May.

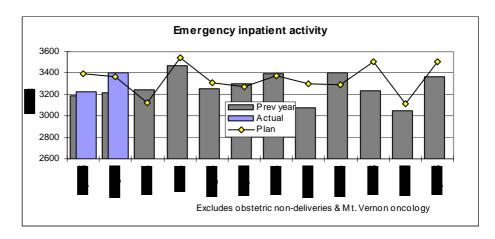
Issues

• The Trust had to cancel 75 routine operations during May. This represented 2.4% of elective admissions, compared to the national target of 1% or less.

Activity levels

Emergency care

For the first 2 months of the year, Finished Consultant Episodes (FCEs) were 2.3% above the corresponding period last year, but 1.9% below plan, as we were already anticipating an increase.



By specialty the biggest variances from plan in the first 2 months were: -

•	General Medicine	-353	(-25%)
•	Care of the elderly	+100	(+9%)
•	Cardiology	+95	(+40%)

This appears to be mainly a re-distribution between the medical specialities.

Elective care

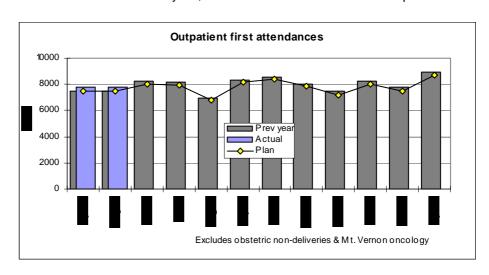
Elective inpatient FCEs were 9% below plan for the first 2 months of the year, while day case FCEs were less affected, at 3% below plan.

Overall this means that total elective FCEs were 5% below plan.

This also brought the day case percentage up to 71% (compared to 68% the same time last year).

Outpatient

In the first 2 months of the year, first attendances were 4% above plan.



By specialty, the main variances against plan in the first 2 months were:-

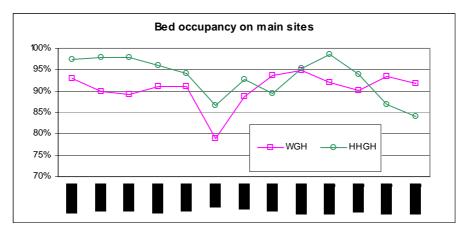
Orthopaedics -222 (-9%)
 Dermatology +186 (+18%)

Cancer fractions

Cancer fraction activity for April and May was 9% below plan.

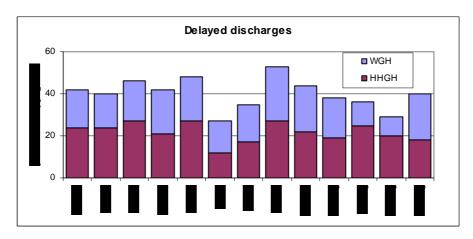
Bed usage

Average bed occupancy for April and May across all sites decreased to 84% (still a little above the National Bed Inquiry norm of 82%). For the past 3 months, bed occupancy at Watford has been consistently below 85%

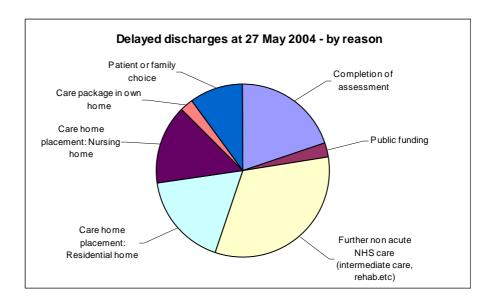


(The other sites have much lower occupancy with Mount Vernon and St Albans averaging 60% and 51% respectively.)

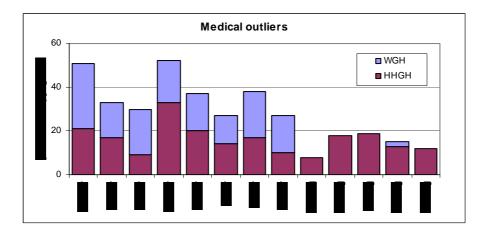
Delayed discharges peaked on 25 April (27 at Hemel and 26 at Watford). These 53 delayed transfers represented 8% of the total beds available on these two sites.



Almost a third of the delayed discharges were waiting for further non-acute NHS care, such as intermediate care or rehabilitation.

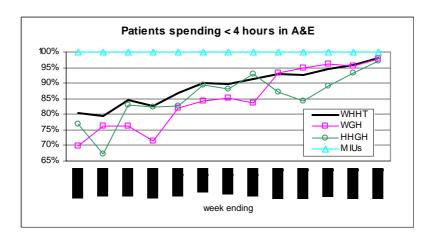


Medical outliers at Watford have all but disappeared over the month of May. This had released between 10 and 20 beds.



Accident & emergency

Over the months of March, April and May, performance across the Trust against the 4-hour target successively averaged at 82%, 90% and 95%, and in the final week of May reached 98%.

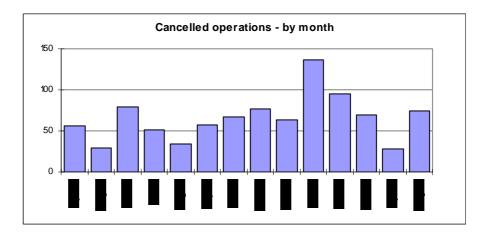


In March, April and now May, no patients waited longer than 12 hours in the any of the Accident and Emergency Departments.

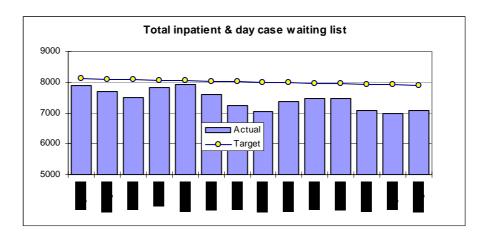
Waiting times

Inpatient and day case waiting

The Trust had to cancel 75 routine operations during May. This represents 2.4% of elective admissions, compared to the national target of 1% or less.

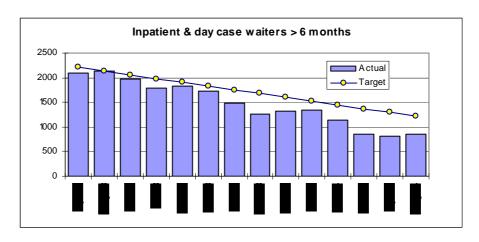


Despite this, the total waiting list at the end of the month was still safely 814 below profile.



The trust has maintained the national target of a maximum 9-month wait since the end of March 2004.

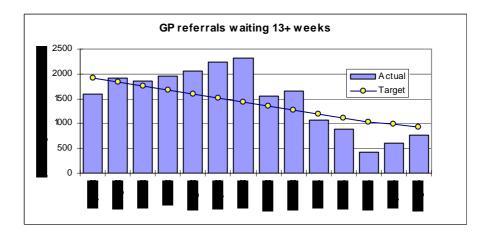
The number of 6-month waiters at the end of May was also well below our profiled figure, but has essentially remained static since the end of March.



Outpatient waiting

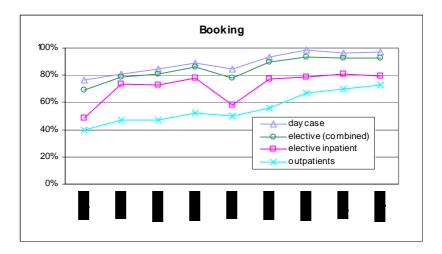
The trust has been able to achieve maintain the national target of a maximum 17-week wait since the end of March 2004.

The number of 13-week waiters has shown increases over the last 2 months, but remains well under target. (Past experience has told us to expect increases in the early part of the financial year, but we were not allowed to reflect this in the LDP profile.)



Booking

The trust is continuing to meet the 67% targets set for elective patients and GP outpatient referrals. The day case target of 100% was always going to be challenging, and over the month of May we achieved 97%.



Cancer waiting

With the exception of only one patient in April, the trust has seen all urgent cancer referrals in April and May within the target 2 weeks. This maintains the standard we reached towards the end of last year, and is in marked contrast to earlier performance.

