

Target / Core Standard: Maximum wait of 6 months for in-patients - January 2008

The Issue

In January 2008 two orthopaedic elective admissions breached the 26 week maximum wait for admission. Both patients were high dependency and required the facilities of Watford General Hospital (WGH) for their treatment. Bed pressures at WGH have been severe for several weeks and efforts to admit the patients had been unsuccessful. Independent sector providers were unwilling to accept either patient due to their dependency level.

Proposed Action

Additional bed capacity to be made available at WGH in the form of 6 'ring-fenced' beds for the admission of similar high dependency orthopaedic patients.

Possible independent sector capacity for similar cases is also being pursued.

Next Steps:

- Breach reports completed and submitted to the SHA.
- Opening of 6 ring fenced elective beds for orthopaedic surgery w/c Feb 11th 2008.
- Further discussions with independent sector providers.