

Governance Declarations

2007/08

Target / Core Standard: Delayed Transfers of Care - December 2007

The Issue

To date Trust wide DTC's are running at 5.03%, which is the highest in the East of England. The situation deteriorated through November and into December with DTC's now reaching up to 8% per week and is now running at around 6%.

This equates to 30-40 acute beds blocked within the Acute Trust (through a range of delays due to Health/Intermediate Care, Social Care and Continuing Care Panel delays).

The deterioration in performance has also impacted on A&E and Elective care performance. A calculation of the lost income to the Trust/Health Economy from the blocked beds/lost activity is being prepared to discuss with the Chief Executives

Improvement in DTC's numbers is a key improvement service benefit required if the Trust is to achieve the 80th and 90th centile performance standards for the Delivering A Healthy Future /Acute Admissions Unit project.

Proposed Actions

DTC numbers are agreed weekly through a multidisciplinary team meeting (Bed/Capacity Managers, Intermediate Care and Social Care representatives). A summary of all cases is produced and shared for action to resolve. This however is a retrospective action and does not address the prospective actions required to reduce these numbers.

Whilst the target sits with in the Acute Trust the solutions are economy wide, requiring input and action from the PCT and ACS.

The CEO, in conjunction with the PCT has established an Executive Led task Force to reduce the number of DTC's in the Acute Trust. Executive Level representation from both PCT and ACS has been obtained.

Project Management support to undertake process mapping and redesign of the DTC's pathways has been agreed, which will also develop improved accurate and consistent daily tracking of DTC's which can be shared with partner organisation and used as an accurate measure of DTC performance. This will also support the increased and more timely sharing of information to ensure that actions are prospective and not retrospective.

Next Steps:

West Hertfordshire PCT – notified

Hertfordshire County Council – Adult Care Services – notified

Task force to be implemented

Recording process of DTC's within the hospital reviewed to ensure they are meeting best practice.

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