
Public Board Meeting 29 September 2011

Patient Reported Outcome Measures

Presented by: Nick Evans, Director for Partnerships

Background

1. Patient reported Outcome Measures (PROMS) provide a patient reported assessment of health, often in the form of a single number. Changes in PROMS scores as a result of surgery can be used as a measure of “outcomes”.
2. All providers of NHS-funded hip and knee replacements, groin hernia and varicose vein surgeries have been required to collect and report PROMS data since April 2009. Patients are asked to complete a questionnaire prior to surgery, and are sent a post-surgery questionnaire between 3 and six months after their operation. The information collected is used to derive a case-mix adjusted average health gain for each surgical procedure for each provider organisation.
3. The Department of Health (DoH) has developed a methodology to identify potential outliers by comparing providers’ average health gain to the national average. An “outlier” is defined as an organisation whose performance is statistically different from the overall national rate, and is unlikely to be due to random variation. The methodology is based on the use of a funnel plot for each surgical procedure, with control limits set at 99.8% and 95%. Providers lying outside the 95% control limits are regarded as potential “alerts”, and those lying outside the 99.8% control limits are potential “alarms.”
4. The DoH plans to publish PROMS data quarterly, together with details of potential outlier organisations.
5. The DoH is developing plans to link a proportion of tariff reimbursement for hip and knee replacements to patient outcome as assessed by PROMS. As yet no timescale has been given for implementation. The DoH is also seeking to extend the PROMS system to other conditions.

West Herts performance

6. Attachment 1 shows the funnel plots for the four surgical procedures for the year 2010-11. The Trust’s performance is as follows:

Procedure	Control Limits?	Above / below national average
Varicose veins	Within all control limits	Above
Groin hernia	Within all control limits	Below
Hip replacement	Within all control limits	Above
Knee replacement	Within all control limits	Below

Conclusion

7. PROMS are still classed by the DoH as 'experimental statics', although it is expected that this will change in the new year. The use of PROMS measures to modify reimbursement levels for trusts is expected to be implemented at some point.
8. 2010-11 PROMS data for the Trust suggests that current performance is satisfactory.
9. Further reports will be brought to the board as available.

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