

## GENERAL SURGERY SERVICES

All hospitals in SWSAHS provide General Surgery. General Surgeons include Upper GI, Colorectal, Breast, Endocrine, Trauma, Vascular, and Head and Neck surgeons who provide a broad range of surgical services for emergencies and elective cases. The subspecialty surgeons participate in an emergency general surgery roster for all Hospitals in SWSAHS.

SWSAHS currently meets 77% of public sector inpatient demand for general surgery. The private sector captures 31% of total resident demand.

In 2002/03, SWSAHS delivered 5,835 episodes of care, accounting for 20,557 beddays. These figures are somewhat misleading as data for Upper GI, Colorectal, Breast, Endocrine, Trauma, Vascular, and Head and Neck activity usually has a component of work performed by general surgeons. Cancer related surgery and complex procedures tend to be performed by the sub-specialised surgeons.

The complexity of the surgery and the complexity of the patient's anaesthetic risk are the determining factors for which surgeon will operate and at which facility the operation should be performed.

The demand for general surgery is projected to increase by 11.1% to 2006 and by 14.9% to 2011.

### Current Service Provision

#### Bankstown Hospital

There are 8 VMOs and 1 FTE Staff Specialist General Surgeon. In General Surgery 1 senior registrar, 3 accredited registrars and 1 unaccredited registrar provide a 24 hour Registrar cover for General Surgery.

#### Fairfield Hospital

There are 5 General Surgery VMOs, 2 accredited registrars.

#### Liverpool Hospital

There are 1 FTE Staff Specialist General Surgeon, 9 General Surgery VMOs, 1 senior registrar, 5 accredited registrars, 3 unaccredited registrars providing 24 hour Registrar cover.

#### Macarthur (Campbelltown and Camden)

There are 7 VMO General Surgeons and 4 registrars providing weekday registrar cover.

#### Bowral Hospital

There are 2 VMO General Surgeons.

## CHAPTER 11

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- An Area Department of General Surgery be established to foster cross appointment to match patient complexity with hospital role. The Department will:-
  - Participate in across Area clinical audit to permit benchmarking between hospitals; and
  - Develop and adapt to the evolution of General Surgery subspecialties (in particular, head and neck, vascular, upper-gastrointestinal, Colorectal, breast, trauma and endocrine surgery).
- Urgent/Emergency general surgery be provided at all sites with highly complex procedures supported at Liverpool.
- Fairfield Hospital be developed as the centre for elective short stay, day only, low risk general surgery.
- A research/protocol centre for short stay and day only surgery be established at Fairfield to foster and develop techniques and protocols to enhance the ability to perform short stay and day only procedures.
- Elective day only surgery be provided at Camden Hospital.