

PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY SERVICES

CHAPTER 18

Plastic Surgery is provided at Bankstown, Camden, Fairfield and Liverpool Hospitals. It is organised across the Area into two departments.

SWSAHS is 75% self-sufficient plastic and reconstructive surgery. Private sector hospitals capture 51% of total public and private sector demand. In 2002/03, 1894 episodes of care were provided by hospitals in SWSAHS, accounting for a total of 4,346 beddays. 71% of these episodes of care were provided on a day only basis. Most outflows were to Western Sydney and Central Sydney Area Health Service.

In terms of activity it needs to be noted that the service related group plastic and reconstructive surgery tool does not report all activity in terms of plastic surgery. Plastic surgery works across a number of fields. For example facial trauma on a head injured patient may require plastic surgery however activity is reported under neurosurgical activity. Reconstructive and trauma plastic surgery cases often require extensive surgery which utilises lengthy theatre time.

In 2006, at a planned 85% occupancy, assuming no changes in flows that for adult patients there will be a need for approximately 15 beds in SWSAHS hospitals. Demand for plastic and reconstructive surgery is forecast to increase by 4% to 2006.

Current Services

Plastic Surgery services are organised across the Area into two departments. One is based at Liverpool and the other at Bankstown.

There are two separate on call rosters for these two units. In addition to these two units there are VMO services provided at Camden and Fairfield. There are a total of six plastic surgeons (VMOs), two maxillo facial surgeons (VMOs) and two hand surgeons in the Area.

In terms of activity or service provision there are 30 elective operating sessions per month in SWSAHS. It needs to be noted that whilst surgical separations indicate the number of patients presenting, and beddays indicates the complexity of the case, operating sessions and operating needs to be considered when discussing surgical activity.

Bankstown Hospital

Bankstown Hospital as a principal referral hospital is also a teaching hospital providing acute hand and plastic surgery cover. The hand surgery is currently shared with the Department of Orthopaedic surgery. Bankstown accepts less complex acute admissions (mainly day only or short stay cases) and is networked for undergraduate teaching. The services are provided by 2 VMOs and 1VMO in an on-call only position.

In terms of activity or service provision there are 4 elective operating sessions per month.

In 2002/03, there were 428 separations; average LOS was 2.6 days (5.9 days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to 3 beds.

Liverpool

Liverpool Hospital is the principal tertiary referral hospital for plastic surgery in SWSAHS, providing all major acute trauma services for the Area. It is also the principal teaching and research facility for plastic surgery in SWSAHS. The service is provided by four VMOs in Plastic Surgery, two VMOs in maxillofacial surgery, and two VMOs in hand surgery. One of the two registrar positions is an advanced trainee in plastic surgery. Liverpool provides a 24 hour plastic surgery registrar cover. Major facial and hand trauma requiring microsurgical reconstruction or complex repair are preferentially triaged to Liverpool Hospital.

The goals in the expansion of the service is to target subspecialty skills. The appointment of 2 specialist hand surgeons to the unit improvement in the treatment of acute and secondary Hand surgery trauma. A rotating hand therapist position has also been established.

Other areas of subspecialisation include craniomaxillofacial trauma, head and neck cancer and microsurgical reconstruction, breast reconstruction and paediatric plastic surgery. The oral and maxillofacial services work with the craniofacial and head and neck services as well as having their own caseload.

There are 18 operating sessions per month (includes hands and maxillofacial).

In 2002/03, there were 480 separations; average LOS was 3.8 days (6.5 days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to 5 beds.

Non-Inpatients

Clinics are conducted at Liverpool 5 days per week with one allocated to hand surgery and four for plastic surgery.

Fairfield Hospital

The majority of the work at Fairfield is day surgery services are provided. There are 4 per operating sessions per month.

In 2002/03, there were 207 separations; average LOS was 1.4 days (3.3 days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to 1 bed.

Camden Hospital

Day surgery services are provided. Two VMOs share a weekly day surgery list. There are 4 per operating sessions per month

In 2002/03, there were 528 separations; average LOS was 1.0 day (3.1 days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to 1 bed.

Research and Teaching

Plastic Registrars at Liverpool are currently involved in research.

SWSAHS plastic and reconstructive activity

Month	Elective	Emergency*	Consult	Operative cases
January 20 -Feb 14	41	75	4	109
March	34	82	16	117
April (not available)	-	--	-	--
May	65	130	22	196
June	45	100	10	148
July	30	59	11	87
August	47	68	10	102
September	44	62	11	90
October	74	100	8	182
November	76	120	11	193
Dec (not available)	-	-	-	-
January 2004	67	81		
January 20- Feb 14	15	44		
Total	538	921	103	1,224

Source: Audit Figures 2003

*30% of this activity is for hand surgery

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Plastic surgery be developed as an Area-wide service.
- Liverpool and Bankstown be the major service hubs with Camden as a day surgery service.
- Bankstown substantially increase its role and volume, through establishment of a dedicated registrar position with links to Liverpool.
- All VMOs be cross-accredited to perform plastic surgery at all hospitals in SWSAHS, consistent with role delineation.
- A single, area-wide on-call roster be established so that patients presenting as emergencies to any hospital be triaged according to emergency, complexity, bed and operating theatre availability at Liverpool and Bankstown Hospitals.