

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY SERVICES

CHAPTER 20

All Hospitals in SWSAHS provide orthopaedic services. The Orthopaedics Department at Liverpool Hospital is the tertiary referral centre for the Area, managing complex trauma and medical conditions. The Department also has an important academic and research role. Elective Surgery is performed at Fairfield, Bankstown, Bowral and Campbelltown Hospitals with Day Surgery mainly performed at Camden Hospital.

There were 32,162 orthopaedic beddays (6,296 separations) reported in 2001/02 in SWSAHS hospitals. SWSAHS captured 77% of the SWS resident public demand for orthopaedics. Private sector services catered for 45% of the total demand for orthopaedics.

With projected population growth, and growth in the proportion of elderly people in SWS, demand for orthopaedic services particularly for joint replacements and fractures in the elderly will increase. Rehabilitation plays an important role particularly in the case of elderly patients requiring hip and knee replacements. Models of care require prompt transfer initially from the emergency department to theatre and then to rehabilitation beds to maintain quality outcomes for patients and an efficient orthopaedic service.

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With projected population growth, and growth in the proportion of elderly people in SWS, demand for Orthopaedic Services will increase by 11.8% to 2006 and by an additional 14.6% to 2011. There may also be an increase in orthopaedic trauma in younger patients from motor vehicle accidents, industrial injury and firearms, as well as an increase in the tertiary referral of high energy injuries. The majority of elective orthopaedics will be for arthroscopic and joint replacement which will be carried out on a day only basis.

In 2006, at 85% occupancy and assuming no change in flow patterns, it is projected that there will be a need for approximately 99.5 orthopaedic surgery beds for adults.

Current Services

Bankstown

A range of elective, joint replacement and low energy trauma level care is provided at Bankstown Hospital. The majority of the patients are referred by the emergency department, consultations on the wards and referrals by visiting medical officers and general practitioners in the LGA. Some inflows also are referred from South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service and Central Sydney.

It needs to be noted that Bankstown LGA has the highest proportion of residents over the age of 65 years in the Area. This is evidenced by large numbers of fractured necks of femur (NOFs).

In the case of joint arthroplasty improvements in lengths of stay have been improved through patients attending pre-operative clinics as demonstrated at Bankstown Hospital.

In 2002/03, there were 1,645 separations; average LOS was 6.0 days (8.3 days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to 28.3 beds.

Liverpool

The Orthopaedic department at Liverpool is a tertiary referral centre for the management of complex trauma. Paediatric and specialised reconstructive surgery is also provided.

Orthopaedic patients with complex medical conditions or significant infections are managed at Liverpool in conjunction with high level access to ICU services, high level medical/surgical services and infectious diseases consultative service.

In 2002/03, there were 1,903 separations; average LOS was 5.9 days(8.2 days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to32.2 beds.

Fairfield

Fairfield performs the majority of elective surgery, including joint replacement for the Liverpool, Campbelltown and Fairfield hospitals. Fairfield orthopaedic service provides cross-disciplinary care through the Whitlam Joint Replacement Centre.

In 2002/03, there were 1,172 separations; average LOS was 3.9 days(6.5 days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to13.3 beds.

Campbelltown

Elective surgery other than joint replacement is carried out. The orthopaedic surgeons are also appointed to Fairfield and Liverpool Hospitals. There is a trauma roster and limited after hours registrar cover.

In 2002/03, there were 734 separations; average LOS was 6.1 days (7.8days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to 13.0beds.

Camden

Camden Hospital provides the day surgery service for the both Campbelltown and Camden Hospitals.

In 2002/03, there were 502 separations; average LOS was 2.3 days (8.7days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to 3.3beds.

Bowral

Range of elective, joint replacement and medium level trauma care.

In 2002/03, there were 359 separations; average LOS was 1.4 days (3.5days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to 1.5beds.

Research and Teaching

The Liverpool Orthopaedic department has an academic and research role and employs advanced surgical trainees.

The Whitlam Joint Replacement Centre provides patient, staff education and research. Fairfield Hospital is also recognized for advanced training in orthopaedics.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Orthopaedic Surgery be developed as an Area-wide service.
- Orthopaedic surgery be performed at Liverpool, Bankstown, Fairfield, Campbelltown and Bowral Hospitals.
- Bankstown Hospital and the Whitlam Joint Replacement Centre at Fairfield Hospital be enhanced as the major centres for elective joint replacement and reconstruction.
- Traumatic orthopaedics be centred at Liverpool, the designated Major Trauma Service. Liverpool Orthopaedic Department continue to provide for most paediatric and specialised reconstructive surgery.
- The orthopaedic service at Campbelltown Hospital be enhanced to a level 5 service 7 days a week.
- Paediatric orthopaedics and trauma continue to be provided at Liverpool with progressive development of this service at Campbelltown Hospital with additional registrar coverage.
- Macarthur to develop its role in day surgical and non-joint replacement elective procedures.
- Provide comprehensive rehabilitation services support for orthopaedic services.