

NEUROSURGERY SERVICES

Liverpool Hospital is the major provider of neurosurgery services in SWSAHS, providing 80% of all tertiary neurosurgery including major surgery, trauma and intracranial work. The remaining 20% of the SWSAHS workload is provided by the Bankstown Hospital, which operates as a networked outreach service. The change in the management of intracranial aneurysms over the last 12 months mandates that 60% of aneurysms should be treated by endovascular coiling.

SWSAHS is 67% self-sufficient in neurosurgery with most outflow activity provided by the Central Sydney, Western Sydney and South Eastern Sydney Area Health Services. Unmet demand is predominantly from the Bankstown and Macarthur LGAs.

In 2002/03, SWSAHS provided a total of 1,042 episodes of care, accounting for a total of 9,524 beddays.

In 2006, at a planned 85% occupancy, assuming no changes in flows that for adult patients there will be a need for approximately 37 beds in SWSAHS hospitals. Demand for neurosurgery is forecast to increase significantly to 2006, by 56.6%, and by an additional 14.7 % to 2011. This means a 49.4% increase in the demand for bed days to 2011.

Current Services

All major surgery, trauma and intracranial work is done at Liverpool; 20% of separations are non surgical. These comprise both spinal conditions and minor head injuries. Every year 200 craniotomies are performed. These include brain tumours, trauma, aneurysms and haematomas. Around 600 spinal operations are done each year. There is funding for 4 FTE neurosurgeons with 3 currently employed in SWSAHS. Liverpool Hospital is a major trauma centre with the neurosurgical unit becoming one of the busiest public hospital based neurosurgery units in NSW.

Bankstown Hospital

There is one operating session per week at Bankstown. The Bankstown service is a successful example of a networked outreach service.

In 2002/03, there were 205 separations; average LOS was 6.4 days (7.5 days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to 4 beds.

Liverpool

There are 6 operating sessions each week at Liverpool. There are currently 20 designated neurosurgery ward beds at Liverpool.

In 2002/03, there were 837 separations; average LOS was 9.8 days (10.5 days excluding day only). At 95% occupancy this is equivalent to 24 beds.

Major Equipment

The evolution of technology will require the purchase of a new operating microscope, stereotactic localisation system and neuro-endoscopy equipment.

CHAPTER 24

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Neurosurgery continue to develop as an Area-wide service.
- Liverpool continue its role as the centre for the investigation and management of aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations, complex neuro-otological surgery, neuro-oncology, complex spinal surgery, trauma, clinical research and post graduate training.
- Bankstown specialise in spinal and peripheral nerve surgery.
- A similar service to Bankstown be developed at Campbelltown Hospital.
- Liverpool develops an interventional neuroradiological service.
- In 2005/06 the fifth neurosurgeon be appointed with an added operating session and extra beds provided at Liverpool. Operating microscope, stereotactic localisation system and neuro-endoscopy equipment at Liverpool be updated by this time.