

ANAESTHETIC & PERI-OPERATIVE SERVICES

CHAPTER 55

Anaesthetic and Peri-operative Services are a core component of all Hospitals across SWSAHS. The demand for surgical services, obstetric services, critical care services and endoscopy services across the Area largely determine the volume and characteristics of the Anaesthesia and Peri-operative service provision across the Area. Demand for mental health, radiology, cardiology, acute and chronic pain management, resuscitation and IV lines are also important drivers of anaesthetic and peri-operative services

In 2002/03 a total of 42,682 inpatient operation, requiring anaesthetic/peri-operative services, were performed in hospitals across SWSAHS.

Current Services

Anaesthetic and Peri-operative Services in SWSAHS encompass distinct phases of operational activity. They include the preoperative assessment phase, the intraoperative phase and the postoperative or peri-operative phase.

Peri-operative wards in SWSAHS hospitals provide a high volume, high occupancy area that process most patients having procedures under anaesthesia. This model of care was first implemented at Liverpool Hospital, and is now the prevailing model of care throughout Australia.

Pre-operative assessments are conducted principally in clinics in hospitals across SWSAHS. Standardised pre-operative assessments across the Area, including standardised screening tools and clinic criteria, will enhance service outcomes.

Emergency/elective theatre capacity in SWSAHS hospitals has been allocated on a historical basis. A comprehensive review of operating allocations across the Area will identify opportunities to enhance operational performance.

In addition, the enhancement of anaesthetic cover for obstetric services across SWSAHS will improve service outcomes.

Changes in clinical complexity and technology will require increasing nursing and technical specialisation in theatres. Workforce development for clinical and managerial capabilities will ensure nursing competencies match current and future clinical service needs.

Bankstown Hospital

In 2002/03, a total of 10,743 inpatient operations were performed at Bankstown Hospital, requiring anaesthetic and peri-operative services. Of these, 59.4% were performed on a day only basis.

Fairfield Hospital

A total of 4,705 in patient operations were carried out at Fairfield Hospital in 2002/03 requiring anaesthetic and peri-operative services. 58.4% of these were same day procedures.

Liverpool Hospital

In 2002/03, a total of 15, 278 inpatient operations were performed at Liverpool Hospital, requiring anaesthetic and peri-operative services. Of these, 49.6% were performed on a day only basis.

Camden/ Campbelltown Hospitals

4,708 in patient operations were conducted at Camden Hospital in 2002/03 and 4,676 at Campbelltown Hospital. Due to the Commissioning of Campbelltown Hospital, the number of operations performed at Campbelltown were significantly lower than the previous year. 77.3% of the total operations performed at both Campbelltown and Camden Hospitals were same day procedures.

Bowral Hospital

A total of 2,572 operations were performed at Bowral Hospital in 2002/03 requiring anaesthetic and peri-operative services. 67.4% of these operations were performed on a day only basis.

Teaching and Research

SWSAHS provides teaching and training in anaesthetic and peri-operative medical and nursing specialities. Anaesthetic Trainees are located at the Liverpool, Bankstown and Campbelltown Hospitals. The training based at Liverpool Hospital is recognised by the *Australia and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists* as a comprehensive Vocational Training Program. Peri-operative Nursing Courses also support graduate education in surgical nursing, anaesthesia and recovery, and peri-operative nursing.

High Cost Equipment Needs

Changes and developments in technology, including procedural technology such as endoluminal surgery, minimally invasive surgery, interventional radiology, anaesthesia delivery systems and patient monitoring, will have a direct impact on the future growth and capacity of Anaesthetic and Peri-operative services across SWSAHS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- An Area wide department be established to oversee clinical outcomes, training and education, resource allocation and co-ordination.
- Appoint an Academic Chair as Director of Anaesthetics with an interest in obstetric anaesthesia.
- The Area wide department implement a consistent process for pre-operative assessment clinics to triage bookings to the appropriate role delineated facility for safe and efficient outcomes.
- A review of operating theatre utilisation and assignment be conducted to define where further efficiencies in theatre utilisation can be achieved.
- Additional anaesthetic services be provided to support obstetrics.