

Greater Manchester Surgical Centre (GMSC)

The GMSC opened its doors to patients in May 2005 taking a specific case mix in relation to Orthopaedics, Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) and General Surgical specialities.

It took a few months for the GMSC to become fully operational and a recent report identifies this to have been around September 2005. For around the first twelve months Bolton PCT offered patients sat on waiting lists at Bolton Hospital NHS Trust the option to have surgery completed earlier by transferring to the GMSC.

January 2006 saw the introduction of patients being offered choice of provider at the point of referral and therefore those patients sat on RBH waiting lists from January 2006 had actually chosen to go to that hospital for their treatment.

During 2006 Bolton PCT started to move away from the method of contacting patients sat on a waiting list and began offering patients requiring a surgical procedure choice at the point of referral the GMSC direct.

Bolton PCT needed to carry out service transformation locally to enable this to happen and interim ICATS were established for ENT & General Surgery whilst Tier 2 Orthopaedics was transformed into a full blown ICATS model.

February 2006 – ENT

May 2006 – Orthopaedics

July 2006 – General Surgery

% Of actual referrals against quota 2006/07

PCT	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Bolton	33%	58%	58%	66%	56%	71%	77%	127%	101%	136%
All	79%	86%	86%	83%	76%	70%	78%	99%	60%	85%

What was not taken in to consideration in the beginning was the lead in time it took to actually see the patient through the maximum 4 weeks ICATS to enable choice of the GMSC to take place. The table above clearly shows that although it was a slow start in April 2006 there has been a steady month on month increase in the number of referrals to the GMSC.

Unfortunately although the above table clearly shows that activity being referred is on the increase the actual case mix is not as rich as the allocated capacity and the underutilisation in the early months leaves Bolton PCT with a shortfall in activity to the value of around £500,000 to date this year.

Bolton PCT is currently working with the GMSC to review the criteria around the submission of joint procedures to see if it is possible to improve on the current position.

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