

Waiting List Requirements for Access to Additional Throughput Pool Funds

PURPOSE

The purpose of this circular is to advise acute hospitals of a relaxation of condition 2.8.4(g) of the *Hospital Conditions of Funding*, which relates to the waiting list targets which must be achieved in order to enable access to the additional throughput pool funds.

BACKGROUND

At present the condition states that access to the additional throughput pool for the March and July Quarters 1994 will only be made available to those hospitals which have no category one waiting list patient waiting longer than 30 days as at 1 January 1994, and no category two waiting list patients waiting longer than 90 days as at 1 April 1994.

However, whilst the treatment of these categories of patients is viewed as a central priority, the Department is cognisant of the fact that the timelines for achieving the stated waiting list targets are too strict. Factors limiting some hospitals' ability to comply include the specialised nature of the surgical specialties some hospitals perform, and lead times for implementing waiting list management techniques.

NEW CONDITIONS TO REPLACE CONDITION 2.8.4 (g)

In relation to the *Hospital Conditions of Funding* section relating to access to the Additional Throughput Pool [s. 2.8.4 (g)], the following provisions are now effective:

2.8.4 (g) A hospital will not be eligible to receive a payment from the additional throughput pool in the March Quarter 1994 if it has any category one patients on its waiting list who, at the commencement of that Quarter (ie 1 January 1994), have been waiting for treatment for more than 30 days, with the exclusion of cardiac surgery patients.

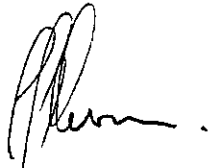
2.8.4 (h) A hospital will not be eligible to receive a payment from the additional throughput pool in the June Quarter 1994 if it has any category one patients on its waiting list who, at the commencement of that Quarter (ie 1 April 1994), have been waiting for treatment for more than 30 days.

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2.8.4 (i) A hospital will not be eligible to receive a payment from the additional throughput pool in the September Quarter 1994 unless it has reduced the number of category two patients, who at the commencement of that Quarter (1 July 1994) have been waiting for more than 90 days, by at least 25 percent as compared with 1 July 1993. Furthermore, relevant hospitals shall submit a plan, approved by the Regional Office, demonstrating how there will be no category two patients on their waiting list who will have been waiting for more than 90 days as at 1 January 1995.

2.8.4 (j) A hospital will not be eligible to receive a payment from the additional throughput pool in the March Quarter 1995, if it has any category two patients on its waiting list who, at the commencement of that Quarter (ie 1 January 1995) will have been waiting for treatment for more than 90 days.

These Guidelines are effective for all public acute hospitals which maintain elective surgical waiting lists as of the date of issue.



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