

Ref. No: 0290  
Date: 29/09/23  
Subject: Bariatric Surgery

## REQUEST

- 1. How long is the queue time (in average) for a patient to get bariatric surgery at your Trust?**
- 2. How does your Trust prioritize and manage the queue for bariatric surgery?**
- 3. What is the overall capacity in your Trust to handle bariatric surgeries in terms of infrastructure and personnel?**

## RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023. Please note for this request that Southport and Ormskirk sites do not undertake bariatric surgery.

- 1. How long is the queue time (in average) for a patient to get bariatric surgery at your Trust?**

This is a new service which became operational on 1 April 2023 , so our data is preliminary. We are commissioned to provide a non-surgical initial phase of up to six months (known as Tier 4A). Following this assessment by a bariatric physician (in this case a consultant endocrinologist), patients are discussed at our MDT and brought through to see a surgeon if appropriate (known as Tier 4B), and thereafter listed for theatre. The mean time from receipt of email referral from the referral management centre to date of surgery in the patients treated so far is 155 days.

- 2. How does your Trust prioritize and manage the queue for bariatric surgery?**

Patients are seen in the non-surgical arm of the pathway in order of referral from the referral management centre. Patients are discussed in date order of referral at the MDT when they complete Tier 4A and have

been referred for consideration for surgery by the bariatric physician. Since some patients require significant further investigation and management in Tier 4A some patients will spend longer in Tier 4A than others.

**3. What is the overall capacity in your Trust to handle bariatric surgeries in terms of infrastructure and personnel?**

We are a large NHS Teaching Hospital with access to multiple specialties on site in addition to an intensive care facility on site. We have the capability and flexibility to undertake a variety of different advanced upper GI procedures. Our projection is that we will carry out around 100 bariatric procedures in our first year

We have a bariatric team consisting of four Upper GI Surgeons, two Endocrinologists, one Clinical Specialist Nurse, one Specialist Dietician, one Clinical Psychologist, one Co-Ordinator and one Secretary. In addition, we have two specialist Anesthetists supporting the service. Overall we aim to perform about 100 operations a year.