

Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals**Briefing Report for the Health and Social Care Select Committee**
April 2025**Elective activity**

Since the last report provided to the Health and Social Care Select Committee in September 2024, the number of patients waiting for cardiac surgery at the Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals has reduced to 540 and the number of patients waiting for cardiac surgery continues to slowly reduce. The Trust continues to use the Ortis platform to monitor patients waiting and manage any risk of harm associated with patients waiting for surgery.

In terms of the target for hospitals to clear patients waiting over 65 weeks by the end of March 2025, Harefield Hospital has one patient waiting over 65 weeks for cardiac surgery. This patient's pathway was particularly challenging due to short term illness and other health conditions delaying admission and cancelled surgery dates. The patient has been provided with a new surgery date in May 2025 (patient choice).

There are 457 cardiology patients at Harefield Hospital and 556 patients at the Royal Brompton hospital awaiting a Cath lab procedure. The breakdown of these procedures is outlined below:

Procedure Type	RBH	HH
Angio	163	102
Devices	96	87
Ablation	237	234
TAVI (transcatheter aortic valve insertion)	6	16
Other structural	54	18

Diagnostics

Hospitals are measured against a DM01 standard which covers 15 diagnostic tests and 95% of all patients should receive their diagnostic test within 6 weeks of referral.

Brompton and Harefield Hospitals are performing well against this standard for most modalities. Brompton Hospital is meeting this standard and Harefield has improved their echo position to 85% patients having their scan within 6 weeks, which is a much-improved position. The provision of additional clinic space has supported this improved performance and an additional staff member has been recruited and starts in April, so it is expected that this improvement trajectory will continue.

Over the last few months, Harefield have seen a significant increase in GP direct access echo referrals. This is being discussed with the ICB, as it may be that patients are being sent to Harefield for their echo rather than their local hospital. This may be resulting in GP patients waiting longer for their echo.

The DM01 performance for sleep studies remain the area of greatest concern for DM01 compliance. Both Brompton and Harefield Hospitals are managing to see 60% of their patients within 6 weeks. Actions continue to be taken to improve this performance.

Heart, Lung and Critical Care Clinical Group

Cancer (Lung)

With regards to performance against the 62-day cancer target, Brompton and Harefield Hospitals often receive referrals for thoracic surgery after the 62-day target has already been breached in their local hospital. Due to this, and the Synnovis cyber-attack incident in 2024, we have been monitoring performance by reviewing the total number of patients on the waiting list for thoracic surgery and the number of patients that have breached.

In July 2024 the waiting list peaked at 150 patients with 86 patients breaching. Currently the waiting list is 131 with 66 patients breached. Use of independent sector capacity has helped improve performance and we are aiming to improve performance further and to ensure that referred patients have their thoracic surgery within 3 weeks of being referred to us.

As part of the Lung Cancer Screening programme (previously called the targeted lung health check programme), Harefield Hospital continues to lead the West London scan review meetings where all patient scans are triaged and signposted for onward investigation and treatment where appropriate. The scanning meetings continue to go well and the programme in West London has identified approximately 190 new cancer cases a month with a total of over 6000 cases diagnosed during the life of the programme. 76% of these patients were diagnosed with lung cancer at an early stage (Grades 1/2) that may not have been detected without this programme.

Harefield has now started to screen scans for GP surgeries in Kingston and have just commenced screening scans for GP surgeries in Harrow. In addition, Harefield will be providing additional CT scan capacity for this programme.

Transplant Activity

In 2024/25, Harefield performed 36 heart transplants and 26 lung transplants. This is the highest number of heart transplants carried out by a transplant centre in the UK.

This year Harefield Hospital marks 30 years of Mechanical Circulatory Support (MCS) and this special occasion will be celebrated in the summer. MCS is a device that supports heart function when the heart is not working properly. Depending on the device, MCS can be for short- or long-term support. The device improves organ perfusion and function which leads to a better quality of life and survival. Many of these patients will go on to heart transplantation.

Heart Attack Centre (HAC)

At a recent conference demonstrating benchmarking of all large comparable Heart Attack Centres across the UK, Harefield was best in class for both door to balloon (D2B) times and call to balloon (C2B) times.

The data demonstrated that Harefield Cath labs were best in the country for their percentage in achieving the recommended NICE guidelines for D2B (under 60 mins) and 3rd in the country for C2B achieved percentage (below 150 mins).

Heart, Lung and Critical Care Clinical Group

Harefield Clinical Strategy and Future Developments

Following Board endorsement, work on the development of a Clinical Strategy for Harefield Hospital is almost complete. This will be accompanied by plans to strengthen existing academic links and further develop specialist research. This clinical ambition will inform the vision for the future of the site.