

Bristol and Weston Health Authority



Our Ref IAB/JMH

Your Ref

District Headquarters,
10 Marlborough Street, Bristol BS1 3NP Avon.
Telephone 290666 Ext. ■

2nd November 1987

Dr. G. Crompton,
Chief Medical Officer,
Welsh Office,
Crown Offices,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff CF1 3NQ

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Dear Dr. Crompton,

Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery Referral Rates for Children

I am aware that Officers of the Regional Health Authority, Officers of my Authority and Cardiologists and Cardiac Surgeons have met with you and colleagues to discuss cardiological and cardiac surgical services that could be offered from this Health Authority to Health Authorities in South Wales. I am pleased for your interest in our services and it is our intention to consider how we can give the support you require.

It seems that until now there has been a somewhat ill-defined and under-funded referral pattern from the Welsh District Health Authorities. Referrals from Gwent Health Authority are part of a recognised supra-Regional service for infants and neonates and this service is funded appropriately. There are referrals also for children above the age of one and these referrals are not funded. Clinicians in other Health Authorities in South Wales have been anxious to have the assistance of our Cardiologists, Dr. Jordan and Dr. Joffe and a number of clinics have sprung up in West Glamorgan, East Dyfed and Pembrokeshire Health Authorities which are visited by these Cardiologists. The referral pattern which is emerging from these Authorities is unfunded presently. Officers of South Glamorgan Health Authority are considering the future pattern of their referrals and the extent to which they may wish to use services in Bristol. Liaison and any further referral patterns from Mid-Glamorgan Health Authority are uncertain.

It is apparent that the current volume of our services has outstripped the resources available for their operation and it has been necessary to redress this situation. It would appear that in 1985 our services were funded adequately and that it is since that year that unfunded growth in the services has taken place. It has been necessary therefore to recognise these facts and to discuss with individual Health Authorities in South Wales the pattern of referrals that has emerged since 1985, the intention to continue the pattern and the funding required to undertake the service. It is understood that for neonates and infants supra-Regional funding arrangements can be made between the Welsh Office

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Dr. G. Crompton

Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery Referral Rates for Children (Cont'd.)

and the D.H.S.S. Referrals for children in other age groups is not covered by any formal arrangement as for cross boundary flow adjustment. It has been necessary therefore to consider some form of direct charging for services with individual Health Authorities.

I enclose herewith a copy of letters that have been sent to the Chief Administrative Medical Officers of the District Health Authorities in South Wales in order that their Officers and mine can meet together to discuss the pattern of future services. I will keep you informed of our progress in this matter. It may be necessary for us to meet together with Officers of the South Western Regional Health Authority when we have forecasts for future workloads in order to approve the arrangements that have been made and to confirm the nature of applications for supra-Regional funding.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. J. Roylance
District General Manager

c.c. Dr. M. J. Freeman
Mr. J. Watson
Dr. I. A. Baker
Mr. G. Nix

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