

## **2.0 Paediatrics and Child Health**

**2.1 The information available to general practitioners, in 1984 to 1995 and subsequently, upon the performance of hospital centres offering paediatric services or paediatric cardiac surgery.**

2.1.1 The majority of children with complex cardiac conditions will be discovered during the first few days of life by a paediatric neonatologist before discharge from hospital. The general practitioner would only become involved after the child has been discharged from hospital – and this would be unlikely to happen until the child had been investigated and a diagnosis reached. Indeed, it is quite likely that surgery would have taken place by the time the general practitioner first sees the child.

2.1.2 Such conditions are rare. The “average” list size (in 1980) of 2,500 (now about 1,800 in the UK) is likely to contain ten patients of all ages affected by congenital heart disease with one new case arising about every five years.<sup>1</sup>