

- 3.3. It followed that the District expected the costs of the proposed development to be met by Client Districts and/or the R.H.A.
4. The District would need to explain its reasons for pegging its uptake at present levels and not seeking to achieve the Regional/DHSS target for its own residents.
5. The District regard the present level of service as that received in 1984 i.e. 113 out of a total of 374 people treated in Bristol. The pressure likely to arise in holding District uptake to this level were given perspective by the marked increase on previous years i.e. the 60 cases in 1983 almost doubled to the 113 in 1984.

"Equitable Access to Regional Specialties and Services"

6. It was confirmed that the central purpose of Dr. Pitman's paper, "equitable access to regional specialties and services", was to address the policy issues of securing equity of access for the Regions' residents, not to establish a financial mechanism for controlling the cardiac surgery service. Funding issues should merely enable the implementation of service plans which were to be agreed.

The Present Service

7. The meeting noted the following key characteristics of the present service as follows:-
- 7.1. Patients requiring urgent treatment always take priority over the non-urgent case. In considering whether urgency can be defined in advance, the classifications currently used by Mr Wisheart for adult patients only are:
- (a) Immediate (i.e. an operation is essential within a few days) such cases never appear on the waiting list.
 - (b) In-Patients who can wait a week, but must receive an operation before discharge from hospital. Such cases will have an extended stay in hospital, and do not appear on waiting lists.
 - (c) The high priority out-patient/in-patient case requiring an operation within 2-3 months. These patients will appear on the waiting list.
 - (d) The non-urgent group from whom cases may be selected in order of length of wait and clinical need as the opportunity arises. Cases in this category move into a higher priority with the waiting time at its present levels.
- 7.2. The rate of service delivery from all sources expressed in targets for the Regions' residents is 300 coronary artery by-pass operations, 85 valve operations and 40 operations on children, each per annum per million population. Whilst the service for children is adequate, that for adults is significantly under provided.