

## SUPRA-REGIONAL CENTRES FOR INFANT AND NEONATAL CARDIAC SURGERY

DHSS, on the advice of its Supra-regional Services Advisory Group, designated 9 hospitals for the provision of infant and neonatal cardiac surgery in 1983. Cardiac surgery in children below the ages of one year and of six weeks respectively was considered by the Group, on the basis of reports prepared by the British Paediatric Association, and a joint Cardiology Committee of the Royal College of Physicians of London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England, to require concentration in a small number of centres in order to provide a clinically effective service. The evidence for this was a highly significant difference in outcome between centres with high and low throughput.

Further advice was sought from the Joint Cardiology Committee in 1986 and this confirmed the need for a limited number of centres to perform this complex surgery, and indicated the case for a possible reduction in the number of centres so designated. The supra-regional centres are as follows:-

The Freeman Hospital, Newcastle.  
 The Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital.  
 Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds.  
 Southampton General Hospital.  
 Birmingham Children's Hospital.  
 Brompton Hospital, London.  
 Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children.  
 Guy's Hospital, London.  
 Bristol Children's Hospital and Royal Infirmary.

The Bristol Centre is one of the smallest centres in terms of throughput though the total number of operations on children aged under one year increased from 50 in 1984 to 55 in 1985. [Colleagues from South Western Regional Health Authority and Bristol and Weston District Health Authority will be able to up-date the meeting on this]. It has, however, been seen as having a legitimate claim for development on geographical grounds and the consideration of this has included its proximity to the South Wales population.

Supra-regional centres have protected funding from the DHSS via the Regional Health Authorities and are funded on the basis of the throughput they achieve.