

and it is therefore proposed that the Regional Medical Officer, in discussion with the clinicians in the Region, should establish a regular method of obtaining statistics for referrals outside the Region.

5. DISTRIBUTION OF PATIENTS BY DISTRICT

5.1 Because patients are currently dealt with on clinical need rather than place of domicile there is no reason to suppose that the existing pattern of referral of patients to the Bristol Unit will change significantly when the total number of cases is enhanced. It is therefore to be expected that the pattern of the last two to three years for numbers of patients operated upon from each of the Districts in this Region will remain much the same. This can be observed as the next few years progress but from the point of view of apportionment of commitment it is suggested that the proportions currently coming from each District will be the same with the additional 100 operations. This will not necessarily correspond with the population of the Districts concerned since certain Districts, e.g. Cornwall and Plymouth, refer a greater proportion of their patients direct to London on a regular basis than do others within the Region. A table is attached at Appendix A of the last three full years of figures showing the number of cases from each District that had had their operations in Bristol so that the proportionate use of the service can be postulated.

6. FINANCING THE EXPANSION OF THE SERVICE

6.1 The problem which arises in funding the development of Regional Specialties is that the current Regional RAWP formula does not adequately cater for the funding of the expansion of such specialties on a Regional basis. The way in which the formula operates is as follows:

- Districts providing Regional Specialties are deemed to have the financial resources for providing these specialties contained within their existing allocation.
- In calculating District target positions the cross-boundary flow of patients between Districts is taken into account, including the cross-boundary flow for Regional Specialties.
- Any growth in resources is distributed between Districts after taking into account their target position.

6.2 The calculation of cross-boundary flow is based on the latest available statistics, which are two to three years prior to the year of allocation (target positions for 1983/84 allocations are calculated on the basis of 1981 statistics, but in future years it is likely that guidelines will not be altered without a full year's notice, in which case the 1981 statistics may again be used for determining 1984/85 allocations). The long-term nature of the RAWP formula must also be taken into account, in that imbalances in target position are only corrected over a number of years, and the time taken to achieve this correction is likely to lengthen in a period of little or no growth.

6.3 Taking these factors into account, it is clear that the expansion of Regional Specialties can only be funded in the short to medium