

PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ADULT/PAEDIATRIC
CARDIOLOGY PROVISION TO FACILITATE
INCREASE IN OPEN HEART SURGERY

1. AIMS

To provide an investigational service for both adults and children to meet the needs of the Regional Cardiac Service in Bristol in keeping with the proposed surgical expansion to 600 open heart operations per annum, whilst maintaining investigations to enable 200 patients to be sent to London for operation and increasing the 50 paediatric closed heart operations to 70.

2. STATEMENT OF NEED

2.1 Current Throughput Rates

At present the 880 cardiac catheter investigations per annum are sufficient to satisfy the current adult and paediatric surgical throughput of approximately 275 open heart cases in Bristol, 200 open heart cases in London and 50 closed heart cases in Bristol.

2.2 Projected Adult Investigation Requirement

With the considerable success that has been achieved in recent years using coronary surgery in particular, the demands for increased cardiac investigation in adults can only increase over the next few years.

2.3 Risks of Ferrying Paediatric Cases

The present investigational facilities at the Bristol Royal Infirmary consists of 2 adjacent Catheterisation Rooms (Rooms 13 and 14). The newest equipment was installed some 8 years ago and both rooms are nearing the end of their useful predicted life, i.e. within 2 years. There is no accommodation at the Bristol Childrens Hospital.

Therefore, at the present time, patients' lives are frequently being put at risk by the need to transfer very young children between the Bristol Childrens Hospital and Bristol Royal Infirmary every time a catheter investigation is needed. 50% of these patients are critically ill neonates and infants, many of whom require urgent surgery. This type of emergency surgery is predominantly of the closed heart type which is currently performed at the Bristol Childrens Hospital - 50 closed heart cases. The open heart cases, although with severe disease, are usually admitted electively for surgery in the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

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