

4.04 Re-organisation of Respiratory Outpatient Department in a District General Hospital

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Background: Respiratory Outpatient Department (OPD) was reorganised before and during the COVID pandemic to improve waiting times. This involved repeated revalidation of waiting lists by a Respiratory consultant, pre-ordering investigations and redirection of patients to sub specialist areas within the Respiratory Department. The aim of this study was to assess current referral patterns and see if further reorganisation is needed. **Methods:** Number and category of referrals (Red Flag, Urgent and Routine) was recorded over 8 weeks in 2023. Outpatient waiting times were also reviewed from 2018 to 2024. **Results:** 336 referrals were received over 8 weeks, 52 (15%) of which were Red Flag and 75 (22%) were sleep related. Patients with potential sleep apnoea were referred directly for sleep investigations.

Waiting times for Respiratory appointments have reduced from 133 weeks for routine referrals in 2018 to 32 weeks May 2024 and from 115 weeks for urgent referrals in 2018 to 12 weeks. Red flag targets were always met. **Conclusion:** Re-organisation of OPD services has resulted in a significant reduction in the waiting times. Further development of sleep pathway is a priority for the future. **Conflict of Interest:** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest. No disclosures.