

N A A S G E N E R A L H O S P I T A L

99
A N N U A L R E P O R T



**EASTERN HEALTH BOARD
LIBRARIES**

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Eastern Health Board Members

MEMBERS APPOINTED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DUBLIN CORPORATION

Cllr. Eric Byrne,	32 Ashdale Road, Terenure, Dublin 6W.
Ald. Ivor Callely, T.D.,	7 St. Laurence Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3.
Cllr. Roisin Shortall, T.D.,	12 Iveragh Road, Whitehall, Dublin 9.
Cllr. Dr. Dermot Fitzpatrick,	80 Navan Road, Dublin 7.
Cllr. Deirdre Heney,	12 Sion Hill Road, Whitehall, Dublin 9.
Ald. Sen Joe Doyle,	14 Simmonscourt Terrace, Donnybrook, Dublin 4.
Cllr. Christy Burke,	11 Cherrymount Crescent, Malahide Road, Dublin 3.

DUN LAOGHAIRE/RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr. Tony Fox,	93 Mountain View Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14.
Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne,	Silchester House, Silchester Road, Glenageary, Co. Dublin.
Cllr. Olivia Mitchell, T.D.,	18 Ballawley Court, Sandyford Road, Dublin 16.

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr. Anne Devitt,	Lispopple, Swords, Co. Dublin.
Cllr. Liam Creaven,	43 St. Fintan's Park, Sutton, Dublin 13.
Cllr. Michael O'Donovan,	70 Delwood Drive, Castleknock, Dublin 15.

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr. Colm McGrath,	2 Moyle Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22.
Cllr. Charles O'Connor,	c/o S.D.C.C., P.O. Box 4122, Tallaght, Dublin 24.
Cllr. Don Tipping,	7 The Dale, Kingswood Heights, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr. Jack Wall, T.D.,	Castlemitchell, Athy, Co. Kildare.
Cllr. Sean O'Fearghail,	Fennor, Kildare.
Cllr. Jim Reilly,	Ballinakill, Carbury, Co. Kildare.

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr. Tom Cullen,	Deerpark, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow.
Cllr. Andrew Doyle,	Lickeen, Roundwood Co. Wicklow.
Cllr. Patrick Vance,	Beachmount, Putland Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Members Appointed under Health Board

ELECTION OF MEMBERS REGULATIONS, 1972

REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Dr. Siobhan Barry,	Cluain Mhuire Service, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
Dr. John Fennell,	"Chesapeake", 2 Kendallstown Rise, Delgany, Co. Wicklow.
Dr. K. Harkin,	15 Grattan Crescent, Inchicore, Dublin 8.
Dr. Ray Hawkins,	Bray Medical Centre, Herbert Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.
Dr. Marie Laffoy,	20 Avoca Park, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
Dr. Philip O'Connell,	57 Carysfort Downs, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
Dr. James Reilly,	Fingal House, Lusk, Co. Dublin.
Dr. Charles Smith,	Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum, Dublin 14.

REGISTERED DENTIST

Dr. Don Keane,	130 Merrion Village, Dublin 4.
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REGISTERED GENERAL NURSE

Ms. Maria Hoban,	6 Ashgrove Crescent, Naas, Co. Kildare.
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REGISTERED PSYCHIATRIC NURSE

Mr. Gerry McGuire,	1 The Strand, New Road, Donabate, Co. Dublin.
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REGISTERED PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMIST

Mrs. Bernadette Bonar,	9 Leopardstown Park, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
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MEMBERS APPOINTED BY MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

Mr. Paddy Aspell,	61 College Park, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.
Cllr. Laurence Butler,	3 Whitehall Mews, Westminster Road, Foxrock.
Cllr. Dr. Bill O'Connell,	Vale Road, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.
Mrs. Catherine Quinn,	47 Beechwood Lawns, Rathcoole, Co. Dublin.

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Acute Hospitals and Services for the Elderly

Ms. Maria Hoban	Cllr. Pat Vance
Dr. Marie Laffoy	Cllr. Deirdre Heney (Vice-Chairperson)
Mr. Gerry McGuire (Chairman)	Ald. Ivor Callely, T.D.
Cllr. Jim Reilly	Ald. Sen. Joe Doyle
Cllr. Roisin Shortall T.D.	Cllr. Michael O'Donovan

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Chief Executive Officer

Mr Pat McLoughlin,

Programme Manager, Health Promotion, Mental Health and Addiction and Social Development

Mr. Martin Gallagher,

Programme Manager, Acute Hospital Services and the Elderly

Mr. Seamus O'Brien,

Programme Manager, Services for Persons with Disabilities

Ms. Maureen Windle

Programme Manager, Community Services

Mr. Michael Walsh

Programme Manager, Children and Families

Ms. Brid Clarke

A/Finance Officer

Ms. Margaret McGahern

Personnel Officer

Ms. Mary Kelly

Technical Services Officer

Mr. Jim Curran

Director of Public Health

Dr. Brian O'Herlihy

Estate Management Officer

Mr. Philip Doyle

Communications Director

Ms. Maureen Browne

Management Services Officer

Ms. Mary Crowe

NAAS GENERAL HOSPITAL

HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TEAM

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

Mr. J. O'Brien, Programme Manager (Chairman)

Mr. J. Curran, Technical Services Officer

Mr. J. Browner, Project Manager

Ms. B. Brislane, Director of Nursing

Mr. B. Hargan, Consultant Surgeon

Ms. S. Grey, Hospital Manager

Mr. M. Knowles, Project Team Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Mr. R. O'Keefe, Deputy Chief Architectural Advisor

Mr. E. Flood, Assistant Principal Officer

Ms. J. O'Laoire, Architectural Advisor

Mr. T. Woulfe-Flanagan, Principal Quantity Surveying Adviser

CONSULTANT STAFF

Dr. J. Power, Consultant Physician

Dr. P. McCormack, Consultant Physician in
Geriatric Medicine

Mr. B. Hargan, Consultant Surgeon

Dr. B. Kennedy, Consultant Anaesthetist

Dr. J. McDonnell, Consultant Anaesthetist

Dr. C. Collum, Consultant Radiologist

Dr. B. Hogan, Consultant Radiologist

Dr. L. Ryan, Clinical Director/West Wicklow
Psychiatric Service

Dr. S. McGauran, Consultant Psychiatrist

Dr. M. Cahill, Consultant Psychiatrist

Dr. A. Byrne, Consultant Psychiatrist

Dr. B. Murphy, Consultant Psychiatrist

Mr. J. McElwain, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon

Dr. M. Durity, Temporary Consultant Physician

Mr. F. Laabei, Temporary Consultant Surgeon

HOSPITAL MANAGER

Ms. Susan Grey

ASSISTANT HOSPITAL MANAGER

Ms. Patricia Kelly

NURSE MANAGEMENT

Ms. B. Brislane, Director of Nursing

Ms. T. Coman, Acting Director of Nursing

(October '99 to date)

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Naas General Hospital provides the following services to its immediate catchment area of Kildare and West Wicklow.

- * General Medical
- * General Surgery
- * Acute Assessment/Rehabilitation for the Elderly
- * Acute Psychiatric
- * Accident and Emergency (24 hour)
- * Day Hospital for the Elderly
- * Intensive Care/Coronary Care
- * Day Procedures
- * Radiology
- * Pathology
- * Endoscopy
- * Speech and Language Therapy
- * Physiotherapy
- * Occupational Therapy
- * Outpatients - medical, surgical, orthopaedic, psychiatric
- * Diabetic
- * Dietetic
- * Routine and Stress ECG
- * Oncology Services
- * Asthma Nurse Services

The hospital also provides a comprehensive service to the General Practitioners in the catchment area including direct access to Radiology, Pathology, Physiotherapy and Day Hospital for the Elderly.

POPULATION ON KILDARE / WEST WICKLOW AREA

South Kildare

Athy - Urban	5,204	5,308	104	+2%
Athy - Rural	14,587	14,747	160	+1.1%

Mid Kildare

Naas - Urban	11,141	14,071	2,930	+26.3%
Naas - Rural	46,971	50,204	3,233	+6.9%

North Kildare

Celbridge	37,494	43,135	5,641	+15%
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North West Kildare:

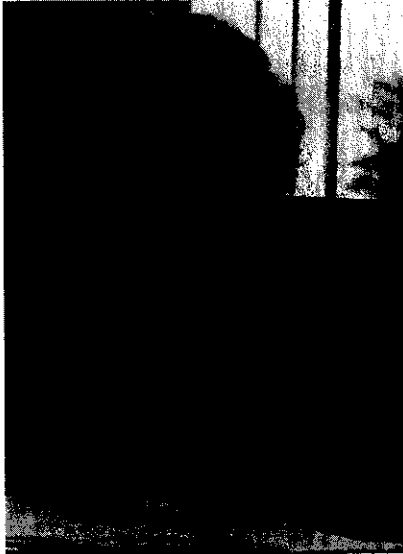
Edenderry	7,259	7,416	157	+2.2%
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County Kildare **122,656** **134,881** **12,225** **+10%**

West Wicklow	11,241	11,956	715	+6%
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Total: **133,897** **146,837** **12,940** **+9.66%**

Welcome to the 1999 Annual Report



Naas General Hospital provides acute hospital services for the catchment area of Co. Kildare and West Wicklow. The population of County Kildare continues to rise with a 10% increase during the period 1991 to 1996.

1999 has proved to be an extremely busy year with the demand for inpatient and outpatient hospital services continuing to climb.

The commencement of the construction of the new hospital this year represents a milestone which marks it as one of the most significant in the hospital's history.

A great deal of planning for the future and reviewing of existing services has been undertaken during the year both in relation to the relocation into temporary accommodation and leading to the detailed operational and workforce planning exercise required in anticipation of the new hospital.

We continue to work very closely with General Practitioners, Community Care colleagues, the Dublin major acute general hospitals and, in particular, Tallaght Hospital with a view to collectively delivering a seamless service to the population of Kildare and West Wicklow.

In addition the continuing pressure for expansion in the range of services provided by the hospital has created challenges which have required hospital staff to evaluate how we go about our business and make changes to ensure the best use of resources available.

Naas General Hospital moves towards the millennium with a very promising future and the opportunity to significantly enhance services being provided from the new hospital for the population of Co. Kildare and West Wicklow.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the hospital management team for their valuable contribution to the running of the hospital.

However, the doctors, nurses, paramedical, support and administrative staff must be particularly praised for rising to the challenges presented during the year and continuing to offer a caring, high quality service to patients.

Service Developments

Approval was received during the year from the Department of Health and Children for the appointment of:

- Out-Patient's Sister
- Asthma Nurse Specialist
- Dietician
- Haemovigilance Officer
- Diabetic Nurse Specialist
- Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon (3 sessions)

- Consultant Physician with special interest in gastroenterology (8 sessions)
- Consultant General Surgeon with special interest in Breast Endocrine (6 sessions)
- Consultant General Surgeon with special interest in colorectal (6 sessions)

The following developments have taken place:-

- The Department of Health has made funding available for the upgrading of the existing Library facilities.
- As part of the enabling works for the new hospital development, the A & E Department has been relocated and the previous Casualty area has been refurbished for use as the Out Patient's Department.
- A central medical records area has been created.
- Partial introduction of the S.A.P. computer system.
- In response to the implementation of National Cancer strategy, an Oncology Nurse Co-Ordinator has been appointed to the South-West Region based in Naas General Hospital.
- A 'Clinicians in Management' Project Team has been established, funded by the Department of Health under the auspices of the Office for Health Management.

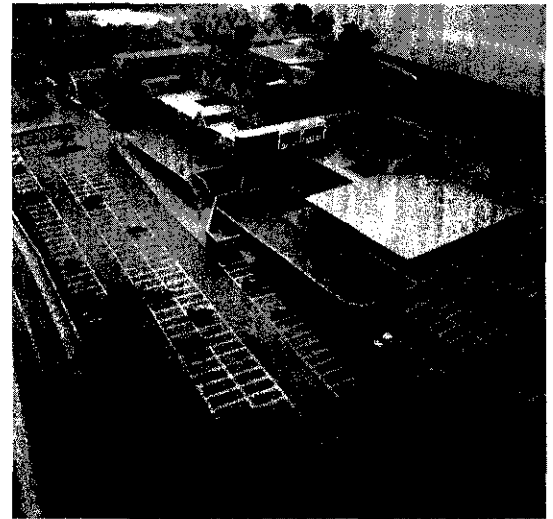
New Hospital Development

Over the last 12 months the design, planning and preparation of contract documents for phase II of the Hospital Development, first announced by the Minister of Health and Children, was completed. Planning permission was granted in February and the detailed design was finalised during the following months. Tenders were invited for the main building contract in July/August and the lowest tender, submitted by P.J. Hegarty & Sons, was approved and accepted in October. This resulted in P.J. Hegarty and Sons commencing construction in November of this year.

Enabling works for this development commenced in July and the A&E Dept., O.P.D., Day Hospital, Ultrasound, Mortuary, Medical Records, Maintenance and Stores have all been relocated to new accommodation since then. I would like to thank all the staff who have assisted with both the relocation of these departments and the detailed design of the new Hospital.

Susan Grey

Susan Grey,
Hospital Manager.



Architect's model of the new hospital.

STATISTICS

Out Turn 1999 Projected £000

Pay	9,072
Non Pay	2,940
Gross Total	12,012
Income	490
Net Expenditure	11,522

Medical	2,620	2,963	2,981
Surgical	1,863	1,571	1,590
Intensive Care Unit	177	196	198
Coronary Care Unit	413	248	393
Acute Psychiatry	447	473	565
Total	5,520	5,451	5,727

Medical	26,013	30,843	30,950
Surgical	9,970	10,113	10,220
Intensive Care Unit	695	725	720
Coronary Care Unit	1,272	1,429	1,420
Acute Psychiatry	10,288	12,041	12,465
Total	48,238	55,151	55,775

Medical	132	145	136
Surgical	83	79	75
Intensive Care Unit	95	99	89
Coronary Care Unit	87	98	90
Acute Psychiatry	94	110	113

Medical (incl. ICU)	8.39	10.4	9.75
Surgical (incl. ICU)	5	6.43	6.1
Acute Psychiatry	25.59	25.45	22.06

Medical New	304	454	390
Return	5,928	8,114	8,799
Surgical New	721	671	638
Return	2,070	1,995	1,649
Orthopaedic New	1,730	1,536	1,532
Return	4,301	4,021	3,872

Department of Nursing



Sr. Bernie McMahon, Nurse Admin. Sister (left) and Ms. Maureen Nolan, Acting Assist. Matron



Ann McDonnell, Bed Manager.

The quality of care and public satisfaction with the Health Service is often related to the quality of the nursing service.

The Department of Nursing in Naas General Hospital aims to provide a high quality standard of care to all clients.

We are aware of the absolute importance of continuing education to the quality of professional nursing. Such education consists of planned learning experiences which are designed to augment the knowledge, skills and attitudes of registered nurses for the enhancement of nursing practice, patient/client care, education, administration and research (Bord Altranais 1994).

As identified in the Health Document "Shaping a Healthier Future", Dept. of Health 1994, Cardio-Vascular disease and cancer are among the main causative factors of morbidity and mortality in Ireland. In response to this the Department of Nursing aims to improve the health and social gain of the population it serves with the secondment of a member of nursing staff to undertake the Cardiac Rehabilitation Co-Ordinator's Course. Cardiac Rehabilitation includes information giving, exercise programmes, psychological adjustment and lifestyle changes, dietary advice and vocational counselling on return to work.

Another challenging development during 1999 was the appointment of the Oncology Nurse Co-Ordinator whose role is to further develop cancer services in the provision of quality, patient focussed care. The Oncology Nurse Co-Ordinator is an integral part of the multidisciplinary clinical team and liaises closely with specialised units, general practitioners and other community health services. The Department of Nursing recognises the importance of patient and carer education and empowerment. The appointment of the Asthma & Diabetic Nurse Specialists have been in direct response to those needs. Both of these specialist services adapt a pro-active approach to patient education and self management.

The rise in emergency admissions to Naas General Hospital in the past few years has been widely documented. In order to ensure optimum use of our beds a Bed Manager was appointed to Naas General Hospital in 1997.

Diabetic Nurse Client Reviews	1,200
Asthma Nurse Client Reviews	900
Oncology Nurse Co-Ordinator Client Reviews	130



*Ms. B. Brislane,
Director of Nursing*

Department of General Medicine



The Department of Medicine provides a comprehensive inpatient and outpatient service for patients with general medical problems and also in specialised areas such as diabetes, asthma and acute cardiac conditions.

1999 was again a very busy year for the Department of Medicine, with the increased workload of the previous two years continuing throughout 1999.

The projected number of medical admissions for 1999 is 2,981 as compared to 2,963 in 1998 and 2,620 in 1997. The projected number of admissions to the Coronary Care Unit in 1999 is 393. Bed occupancy during the year averaged at 152% for the general medical unit and 91% for the Coronary Care Unit.

Day Procedures

The day ward contains six dedicated places. Patients attending for endoscopy procedures are accommodated in the day ward. Other minor medical activities such as BP monitoring, venesection, bone marrow aspirates, blood sugar series and holter monitoring are carried out on a daily basis in the day ward.

Day Procedures	1998	1999 (Projected)
	198	189

Out-Patient Department

Services available in the Out-Patient's Department include:

- Consultation by appointment with Medical, Surgical and Orthopaedic Consultants.
- There is a Diabetic clinic by appointment twice a month.
- Phlebotomy is available at every clinic.

For patients who attend the out-patient clinics, the following referrals and tests are available:

Referrals to the Diabetic Nurse specialist

Referrals to the Asthma Nurse specialist

Referrals to the Dietician

Referrals to the Speech Therapist

Stress Tests

Holter Monitoring Recording

24 Hour Blood Pressure Recording

A Warfarin Clinic

Blood Sugar Series

Endoscopies available are OGD, Colonoscopy and Sigmoidoscopy

Any investigation required for a patient which is currently unavailable in Naas General Hospital, is undertaken as promptly as possible in a Dublin Hospital, further to the appropriate arrangements having been made.

Post-Graduate & Undergraduate Teaching

Naas General Hospital has had links with Trinity College Medical School for the past 12 years. Medical students have attended for residency and elective periods. From September '99, groups of 4th year medical students will receive education in the Hospital on a regular basis during term time.

Clinical case conferences, journal clubs, medical audit meetings and x-ray conferences are held on a regular basis.

M.R.C.P.I. Examinations

Naas General Hospital has been a venue for Part II of the M.R.C.P.I. examination for the past three years. Due to the co-operation of everybody in the hospital, the examination has been run very efficiently in the hospital and the Royal College of Physicians has expressed its appreciation. Dr. J. Power has been appointed Dean of Examinations by the Royal College of Physicians for the period 1999-2001. Dr. P. McCormack is also an examiner. The examination will be held three times annually in the hospital.

Department of Medicine for the Elderly

General Hospital Services

Elderly patients' medical care - both in-patient and out-patient - is currently integrated into the General Hospital Services in Naas General Hospital, pending the development of the 'New Hospital' where our Department of Medicine for the Elderly will be provided.

Day Hospital

The Day Hospital was established in December, 1996. The Day Hospital provides comprehensive medical, nursing, occupational therapy, physiotherapy assessments and treatment for elderly patients in Kildare and West Wicklow.

It was designed to cater primarily for elderly patients over 65 years. Following initial assessment, follow-up treatment is planned for 6-8 sessions. A secretary and a care attendant complement the team working in the Day Hospital.

By having regular contact with the patients, their family and their carers we can integrate assessments, treatments and maximise our ability to meet patient and carer objectives/goals.

Our services are offered on a '9 to 5' daytime basis. Support services are provided by our colleagues in the x-ray department, laboratory, out patients, orthopaedics, general surgery, day ward, dietetics and speech therapy.

We have an education programme with Day Hospital staff giving lectures during the year. These educational sessions are open to both hospital and community staff. We have forged formal liaison with the Liaison Public Health Nurse by way of a weekly meeting. There are also informal links with our community colleagues, community hospitals and voluntary organisations.

We undertook a joint initiative with Dr. Mary Hynes in Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Department of Public Health to formalise an "Audit of Activity" in the Day Hospital and this continues with the help of her successor Dr. Marie Laffoy. Annual statistics from same were presented to the Irish Gerontology Society in September, 1999.

Developments this year

We have just completed a complex move from our old quarters at the back of the hospital to new accommodation at the front of the hospital in order to allow the new hospital development to get underway.

Future Plans

Our plan is to develop our activity level on the new site. To continue our educational programme and to further develop our audit programme.



	1998		1999 (Projected)	
ATTENDANCES	Male	457	Male	379
	Female	959	Female	1,012
	Total	1,416	Total	1,391
NEW PATIENTS				
	Male	46	Male	47
	Female	103	Female	97
	Total	149	Total	144

Department of General Surgery

The range of services provided within the Department of Surgery includes:

- O.P.D. Consultation
- A & E Admissions
- Elective Surgery
- Day Surgery

Other activities in the surgical department include weekly clinical presentation and journal club meetings.

The projected number of admissions for 1999 is 1,590.

Overall, the projected case load in theatre for 1999 shows a continuation of 1998 levels. The development of the Endoscopy service continues with a 9% increase in procedures projected for 1999

Day Surgery - projected number is 588 cases in 1999.

Surgical out-patient attendances for 1999 are projected at approximately 2,300.

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

There is a weekly three-session consultant orthopaedic commitment to Naas General Hospital. Elective and trauma surgery is carried out in the new Tallaght Hospital. Patients requiring trauma surgery are stabilised in the A & E Department prior to transfer and patients are referred back to Naas General Hospital for post-operative management and rehabilitation.

OUTPATIENT ATTENDANCES	1997	1998	1999
Orthopaedic New	1,730	1,536	1,532
Return	4,301	4,021	3,872

Accident & Emergency Department

1999 has been an extremely busy year for the staff of the A & E Department. On September 3rd the move to the new temporary A & E Department was completed. In addition to previous services this new facility offers two extra treatment cubicles, a relatives' room and a large waiting area.

A projected total of 5,260 persons will be admitted to inpatient beds from the A & E Department in 1999.

This indicates that while there is an increase in the number of first time attenders, there is a greater increase in the number of attenders requiring inpatient treatment. This suggests that persons presenting in the A & E Department are now typically more acutely ill than was the case in previous years.

In 1999 the number of patients admitted to Naas General Hospital via the A & E Department accounted for 94% of total admissions to the hospital.



A & E Sister Ann Croke (right) with some A & E staff.

ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT			
	1997	1998	1999 Projected
1st Attendance	19,269	19,627	21,978
Return Attendance	4,805	5,695	5,614
Total	24,074	25,322	27,592

Admitted to Naas General Hospital

	5,045	5,133	4,887
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DRESSINGS CLINIC			
	1997	1998	1999 Projected
	3,401	2,795	3,540

Theatre and Endoscopic Department

These departments are a combined service providing a surgical and endoscopic service.

Day Surgery continues to be successful. A new video printer has been added to the Endoscopy Room equipment which enhances the service.

Other initiatives which have been undertaken to improve the quality of service to clients within this area include the purchase of a "Hot Line Fluid Warming Machine" which is therapeutic in the prevention of hypothermia.

1987	1988	1989 Projected	
Endoscopies	1,086	1,321	1,439
Minor	346	360	329
Intermediate	277	278	276
Major	149	185	153
Total	1,858	2,144	2,197

Department of Radiology

This department offers a wide range of both Conventional and Specialized Radiography and Ultrasound. It is a very busy area of activity working in tandem with the A/E Department, Outpatients and Wards, Day Hospital & Lakeview Unit. All services are also available to General Practitioners in the large surrounding catchment area. A 24-hour service is available. 44,625 examinations were carried out the year ending 31st December 1998 projected increase for year ending 31st December 1999 is approximately 10%. This year we would like to thank *The Friends of Naas Hospital* who have most generously presented us with a specialized ultrasound couch.



STATISTICS

	1997	1998	1999 Projected
Inpatients Examined	4,513	4,703	4,803
Outpatients Examined	26,467	27,589	28,453
No. of Examinations	43,614	44,264	44,814

Department of Psychiatry



Lakeview Unit

Lakeview Unit is a modern 30 bed unit, which is purpose-built for acute psychiatric care for patients from Kildare and West Wicklow.

The Unit is divided into an activation area on the upper floor. The lower floor accommodates acute treatment facility with bed accommodation. The focus of treatment in the hospital setting is to provide acute care for a variety of psychiatric disorders. The programme provides acute medical treatment, followed by a comprehensive range of activities, group session daily and life skills training. The staff include medical and nursing staff, occupational therapist, social workers, psychologist and household staff. The multidisciplinary team work together to treat the patient of his/her acute symptoms. The patient is then followed up at Day Hospitals and outpatient clinics. Community nurses work with patients in their own homes.

STAFF TRAINING

Recognition for NCHDs

Training is provided for junior doctors under the auspices of the Dublin University Training Scheme. The Royal College of Psychiatrists in London has accredited the Lakeview Unit for 18 months of higher professional training. This ensures that the junior medical staff working in the unit are of a high calibre, with consequent benefits to the patients under our care.

Student Nurse Training

Since 1995, the Kildare/West Wicklow Mental Health Services received accreditation for clinical placements for student nurse training. We presently provide a placement for students from Trinity College, Dublin, and also General Nurse Students from Tallaght Hospital and Student Public Health Nurses from U.C.D.

Staff Developments

There is an active programme of inservice education in Lakeview Unit where staff from all areas of our service are facilitated. In 1998, courses in Pharmacology, Suicide and Bereavement were organised.



Some of the Lakeview medical, nursing and clerical staff.

Pharmacy

The Pharmacy offers pharmaceutical services to Naas General Hospital, St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy and Baltinglass District Hospital, top-up service to wards and ward pharmacy service. The Pharmacy also has a role in the promotion of the safe, economic and efficacious use of medicines and the provision of a Drug Information Service to the above hospitals.

Key achievements during the year

Improvement and extension of ward pharmacy and ward top-up service. The Pharmacist will carry out a ward round and chart review to promote safe, economic and effective drug therapy, as well as looking after non-stock medication supplies for patients. The system ensures that wards have the correct levels of medications to meet demands, whilst maintaining optimum stock-holding. The reduction in stocks held on wards and better stock rotation will be evident in savings to drug expenditure, both to wards and pharmacy. The Pharmacist plays a key role at ward level in improving the overall quality of patient care.



Mr. David Giles, Senior Pharmacist.

Department of Pathology

The Laboratory at Naas Hospital provides a very comprehensive high quality service to the Hospitals at Naas, Athy, Baltinglass, and Clane Hospitals. The laboratory also serves approximately 80 General Practitioners in the Kildare and West Wicklow area.

The disciplines covered are:

- Microbiology
- Haematology
- Coagulation
- Blood Transfusion
- Clinical Chemistry

More than 90% of requests generated in the above hospitals and community are processed in the Naas Laboratory. The remaining 10% are sent to C.P.L. in St. James's Hospital. During the year 2000 it is expected that this service will be provided by Tallaght Hospital.

Total No. of Specimens - 1998: 163,443

Total No. referred: 15,515 /

Quality Standards

Both Internal and External Quality Assurance schemes are in operation in all disciplines.

Other quality issues such as turnaround time, direct access by phone and prioritising of urgent specimens are constantly under review.

Access Arrangements

The Laboratory operates an open Access Policy.

As part of improving the service to outside G.P.s, Hospitals, Nursing Homes, we have installed a direct phone line and a fax line.

LABORATORY	Total Number of Specimens Received		
	1997	1998	1999
Biochemistry	55,878	62,639	64,886
Bacteriology	17,964	20,192	20,461
Coagulation	55,969	63,522	63,712
Blood Transfusion	1,541	1,575	1,557
Total Processed in Naas	131,352	147,928	150,616

Professional Development

All staff are encouraged to keep up to date with developments. They participate in the P.E.P. (Professional Enhancement Programme) organised by the Academy of Medical Laboratory Sciences, and attend seminars and conferences regularly.

Service Developments

- * Link up with Tallaght Hospital.
- * Haemovigilance service.
- * Conduct a feasibility study into the provision of computer linkages between the laboratory & G.P.s.



Department of Physiotherapy



Physiotherapy Manager, Ms. Ann Redmond (left) with Karina Batt-Vickers, Physiotherapist.

Naas General Hospital Physiotherapy Department provides both inpatient and outpatient service for Kildare and West Wicklow. The following specialist rehabilitation services are provided: Orthopaedics, Respiratory care, Neurology, Paediatrics, Obstetrics, Gynaecology, Manual Handling, back care, Day Hospital (age related health care).

Developments in 1999

- A senior physiotherapist has successfully completed a Master's Degree in Ergonomics and she has been seconded to the Occupational Health Department in Dr. Steevens' on half-time basis.
- A neuro-physiotherapist has just successfully completed her first year in MSC in neuro-rehabilitation.
- An Orthopaedic physiotherapist has further expanded the service to include orthotics which was not available before to GMS patients in our catchment area.
- Improved access to physiotherapy for G.P patients.
- New equipment has improved facilities for our neuro patients i.e. electronic standing frame and neuro couch

Plans for the year 2000

Health Promotion - To be involved in a health promotions strategy for Naas General Hospital and the wider community i.e. back care and fitness classes and women's health etc.

- To further develop the IT skills for all members of staff.
- Improved efficiency by therapy outcomes measurements i.e. TOM's method.

To offer further clinical placements to under-graduates from the new School of Physiotherapy in the Royal College of Surgeons as well as the existing schools in UCD and Trinity College

	1997	1998	1999 Projected
Inpatients Treated	9,696	9,661	9,110
Outpatients Treated	9,558	11,212	11,268
Total Treatments	35,140	45,396	41,761

Department of Occupational Therapy

The year saw many changes in our Occupational Therapy Department.

The Day hospital service has been developed with a multi-disciplinary approach to the care and management of the patients attending the service.

A review was carried out on the overall service needs for Occupational Therapy in Naas, Athy and Baltinglass Hospitals with a view to looking to the future and contributing to the service profile in the new hospital.

This plan will aim at providing quality patient care which is equable and accessible across the district. Emphasis will be on assessment, treatment and rehabilitation. The aim is to improve function, safety and independence and to contribute to successful, supported and safe discharges.

The Department is developing policies and procedures to cover all aspects of departmental functioning. Collation and analysis of statistics has also begun.

The Occupational Therapy Department is heading into a new decade of change and development in line with the development of the services in the area and in keeping with the progressive direction of the Eastern Health Board.



Occupational Therapists Áine Leith (left) and Marie Kelly (right) with a client.

	1997	1998	1999 Projected
Patients Treated	498	1,111	2,424
Units of Treatment	2,870	4,911	4,140

(1 Unit = 15 mins. direct patient contact time)

Department of Nutrition and Dietetics

This Department provides a service of five sessions per week, a total of fifteen hours. Five hours per week is allocated to in-patients. The general dietetic/nutritional requirements for medical and surgical patients are addressed.

Outpatient Dietetic Service

Two sessions per week are allocated for medical out-patients. Surgical out-patient referrals are seen in a group setting.

Demands on Dietetic Service

In the past year the demands on the service have increased considerably with the overall increase in hospital activity. An additional part-time post has now been approved which will improve our capacity to respond to the increased service requirements.

General Support

The Administration Department provides important services for the efficient and effective running of the Hospital.

The introduction of updated computerised systems for supplies and accounts will significantly increase our capacity to monitor and control expenditure in a timely fashion.

Multi-disciplinary working groups are in place to examine policies and procedures in relation to usage/standardisation of consumables including drugs and medicines.

During this year the responsibility for recruitment of staff has been delegated to hospital level which is very much welcome.

Information Technology

The following systems are currently in operation in the hospital:

- Patient Administration System
- Laboratory System
- H.I.P.E.
- Outpatient Administration System
- Patient Billing System
- Pharmacy System
- Payroll Management Information System
- General Ledger Information System

Two other systems are currently being installed:

- Clinical Audit
- S.A.P. Financial Management System

Materials Management

The introduction of the S.A.P. Financial Management System will provide this department with a computerised stock control system. The introduction of the S.A.P. system will facilitate costing of stocks issued to individual wards and departments as well as improving our overall materials management systems.

As a value for money initiative, this department is operating a 'top-up' system, thus allowing departments to control stock levels. This is currently being piloted in two areas.

Technical Services

During the year the following projects have been undertaken:-

- Conversion of Day Room to Day Ward
- Painting of Male 4 Ward
- Establishment of temporary water supply to hospital during February & March '99
- Temporary Car Park installed in 1999

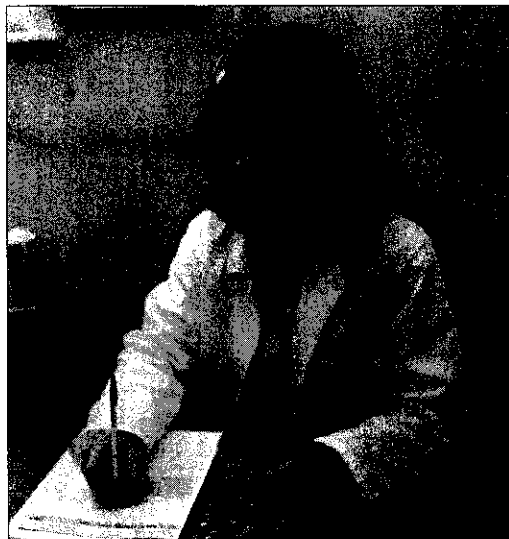
Planned

- Upgrading of the main hospital reception area
- Further ward redecoration



Some of the Administration staff.

Department of Speech & Language



Ms. Ciara McWeeney
Speech & Language Therapist

Function & Role of Speech & Language Therapy

The therapeutic role of the Speech and Language Therapist encompasses the assessment, diagnosis and management of disorders of communication and dysphagia (i.e. swallowing disorders).

This service is provided to adults presenting with communication and/or swallowing disorders that are secondary to/or associated with progressive and acquired neurological impairment and E.N.T. conditions.

The Speech and Language Therapist is based in Naas General Hospital four days a week and provides both inpatient and outpatient service. All referrals are accompanied by a written medical referral.

Levels of Activity

The number of referrals continues to rise as follows:-

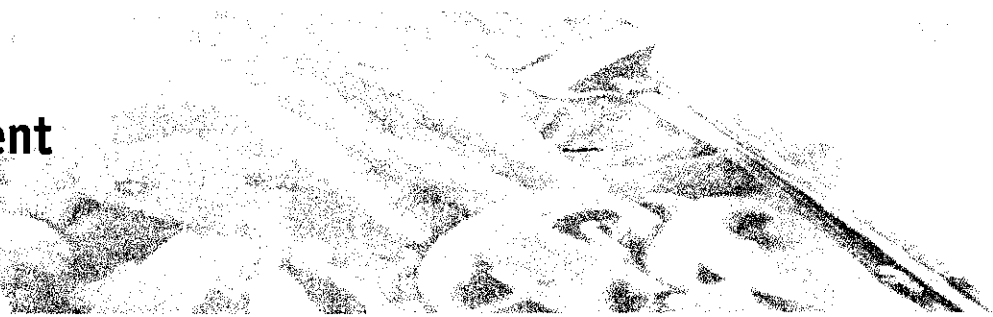
1994	46
1995	69
1996	126
1997	52
1998	78
1999	140 (Projected)

During 1999 we have reduced waiting time for assessments to the following levels:-

Assessment for dysphagia - 2-3 working days.

Assessment for communicative disorders - 5 working days.

Catering Department



This Department offers a wide range of 'Healthy-Eating' options to staff and inpatients. As a patient satisfaction initiative, menus are provided to all patients and the Catering Department liaises closely with the nursing and dietetic staff to ensure that patients' nutritional requirements are met on an individual basis.

In addition to providing in-patient services, the Catering Department also provides meals to the Community via the Meals & Wheels Service and to the Day Centre.

10,310

10,000

6,175

6,000

167,325

182,325

Friends of Naas Hospital

Friends of Naas Hospital was set up 10 years ago to purchase a stress ECG machine. Since then over £260,000 has been raised by various groups, organisations and also by individual donations. The money has enabled us to purchase much needed equipment, which the Eastern Health Board could not fund. In the past year a new Committee has been busy fundraising and purchasing items. One of the events was a 100 mile cycle rally from Naas Hospital to Kilkenny and back last May. This cycle rally also involved a number of other hospitals within the Eastern Health Board. The £4000 raised by Naas cyclists was used to purchase an electronic standing frame for the Physiotherapy department.



Presentation to the hospital of the electronic standing frame.

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