

NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

ORTHODONTIC SERVICES – PROGRESS REPORT SEPTEMBER 2002

Report No. 35/2002

ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT ACTIVITY

Our Board's special clinic arrangements, which commenced in November 2001, continue to operate at Swords and Wellmount Health Centres. We have a total of 5 sessions per week for orthodontic treatment services being provided by 2 Consultant Orthodontists and 1 Orthodontic Specialist. 60 clinics have been held to date:

- Since November 2001, 276 patients from the treatment waiting list have commenced treatment at the special clinics.**
- In addition 38 patients commenced treatment with the Community Orthodontist at North Strand Health Centre since June 2002.**

ORTHODONTIC ASSESSMENT ACTIVITY

Our Board commenced further orthodontic assessment clinics on 6/8/02. These clinics are being held in primary care dental surgeries at Swords, North Strand and Roselawn health centres, both on weekdays and Saturdays for the month of September. There are 4 Orthodontists (3 Orthodontists from within the ERHA region and 1 Orthodontist from a neighbouring board) and Dental Surgery Assistants from the primary care dental service, providing this service.

- There is capacity to schedule 3,015 patients for assessment during this period**
- Following validation of the Assessment Waiting List, to date 2,801 patients have indicated they wish to attend for an assessment appointment. We are still in the process of validating the waiting list for the period 2000 – 2002 and I expect we will receive responses from more patients indicating they wish to attend for an appointment.**
- To date 1,239 patients have been issued an appointment and 1,158 patients have attended.**

All of the patients on the validated waiting list are being contacted by telephone by our administration staff to agree an appointment time for assessment. This appointment is confirmed in writing to the patient. This has proved to be a successful approach in achieving an attendance rate at the clinics of 93.5%.

The clinical assessment process results in the patients who are clinically assessed as requiring treatment, being prioritized on the treatment waiting list on the basis of the severity of their treatment need. A summary analysis of this information will be available for the next Board meeting. Over the coming months we will make every

effort to contact patients who have failed to respond to our validation process and if further patients are identified during this process additional assessment clinics will be arranged.

TREATMENT PURCHASE FUND:

Our Board was allocated funding for 277 additional orthodontic treatment places from the Treatment Purchase Fund. We are in discussion with Orthodontists who provide sessions to our Board and other interested Orthodontists, regarding taking patients from this cohort. We envisage that all of the above mentioned treatment places will be allocated to Orthodontists through these discussions and patients will commence treatment before the end of this year. This service will operate on an out - of - hour's basis.

When this cohort is taken into treatment, a total of 591 patients have been taken into treatment direct by our Board since November 2001.

MANPOWER PLANNING

Specialist Training

The Department of Health & Children have agreed to fund one training place in Cardiff at specialist orthodontic level for a Dentist in our Boards area commencing in October this year. The Dentist has been selected and contractual arrangements are being finalized with the support of the Department of Health & Children.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF STAFF:

Consultant Orthodontist:

This post was advertised in July and failed to attract any qualified candidate.

Specialist Orthodontist:

Discussions are ongoing with the E.R.H.A. regarding funding for 3 posts for our Boards area and for the advertisement of these posts through the L.A.C.

ORTHODONTIC SUITE – ASHTOWN GATE

Temporary Orthodontic Suite.

The Department of Health and Children has allocated €864,000 for the provision of a temporary Orthodontic Suite. Following an extensive search for suitable premises the Ground Floor, Block A, Ashtowngate, Dublin 15 was proposed.

At the meeting dated 20th June 2002 our Board approved the acquisition of these premises for the above Unit.

These premises were chosen as the most suitable for the following reasons:

- Ease of access for clients by virtue of being situated on the Navan Road with a regular bus service on the QBC and suburban rail service.
- A new building with high quality finish, which includes full air conditioning and raised floors, which will facilitate the fit out.
- Value for money.

As Planning Permission for Change of Use is required for this Unit, specifications were drawn up by the Architectural, Structural and Engineering Department of the Eastern Health Shared Services. The planning application has been recently lodged and the outcome is expected at the beginning of December.

While the planning process is ongoing the AS&E Department is engaged in the preparation of Tender Documents for the fit out of the Unit. Also, the Central Purchasing Department of the Eastern Health Shared Services is engaged in the preparation of the Tender Documents for the provision of equipment for the Unit. The Tendering process can proceed and contracts can be agreed subject to the receipt of the necessary Planning Permission. This will enable the fit out and equipping to commence immediately on the receipt of the permission. It is estimated that the fit out and equipping will take 16 weeks.

NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD ORTHODONTIC SERVICE

WAITING LIST REPORT

Treatment List	August 2001	September 2002
Category 1 assessed and awaiting treatment Northern Area Health Board	58	5
Category II assessed And awaiting treatment Northern Area Health Board	392	42 * 1158 patients have been recently assessed and the outcome of their assessment is being validated to determine the number of patients to be transferred to category 1 & 11 treatment waiting lists, and the number to be discharged.
Assessment		
Category I assessment Waiting list Northern Area Health Board	5	0
Category II assessment Waiting list Northern Area Health Board	4,984	**3,319

** This figure includes 866 patients who have received three letters requesting them to indicate whether they wish to attend for treatment or not. They have also been advised that their child's name will be removed from the waiting list if they fail to return the form, which was issued, to them. A house call will be considered before deleting these patients from the waiting list.

M. Windle
Chief Executive

9th September, 2002.

