

5 April 2024

Scoliosis Services for Children and Young People

1. Waiting time from acceptance of referral to first appointment with Consultant?

Current Outpatient waiting times are:

Urgent: Longest waiting patient 7 weeks

Routine: Longest waiting patient 23 weeks

2. Waiting time for the following procedures one listed by consultant?

Spinal fusion

Current inpatient waiting times for this procedure:

Adult RVH longest waiter 13 months

RBHSC longest wait 10 months

Bracing treatment

Current waiting times for this procedure is:

Approx- 6 weeks (3 weeks for measurement and further 3 weeks for fitting of brace)

Casting (body for younger patients)

Current waiting times for this procedure is 6 weeks

3. Are children being referred for growing rods treatment over to the mainland? Or is this now being done in Belfast.

Growing rod treatments are carried out in Belfast where indicated.

4. How many children / young adults have been Outsourced for surgery in 2023?

19 patients were transferred out to Stanmore (RNOH) and have received treatment during 2023.

How many year to date? < 5 patients were transferred out to Stanmore (RNOH) and have received treatment from the start of January 2024 to date.

How many of these surgeries required more than one surgery due to the complexity of the spine? < 5 patients

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Use of < 5 (less than five): We are unable to provide an exact figure - exempt from release under section 40(2) of the FOI Act - as this could make patients personally identifiable. Disclosure would constitute a breach of the principles of the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

5. How many spinal fusions were performed in the trust in 2023, how many year to date?

101 Spinal Fusion procedures were carried out on patients in 2023. In 2024 to date, 5 spinal fusion procedures completed

6. Also one final question [named consultant] has now retired since November 2023. When will his patients be allocated a new consultant?

[Named consultant] retired from BHSCT at end of February 2024. The T&O service is in the process of reallocating [named consultant] patients amongst the other 5 current Consultant Spinal Surgeons specialising in Scoliosis.

Will another consultant be appointed? When?

Recruitment is being progressed at present and we are hoping to appoint in August 2024.

In the meantime can arrangements be put in place for children requiring a review?

Yes, as above, the T&O service is in the process of reallocating [named consultant]'s patients amongst the other 5 current Consultant Spinal Surgeons specialising in Scoliosis.