

**Chief Executive Update on Emerging Issues and Achievements – for Trust Board
(Public) on 27 August 2026**

1. Emerging Risks/Updates on Risks

There are no additional details for this update.

2. Key Achievements

2.1 Elective Care Recognition Award – July 2026 – P Cahalan

The July 2026 award was presented to Belfast Trust Gynaecology service, for their innovative approach to improving patient experience and reducing waiting times.

Working with the provider collaborative to set ambitious targets for waiting time reduction there has been a 4% decrease in women waiting for a new outpatient appointment from April 2025 to March 2026. Of those patients projected to be waiting over three years for a new or review appointment at April 2025, none were doing so by March 2026. These achievements have been made possible through work to reduce delay and increase efficiency, including new templates and enhanced triage.

Regarding Mesh removal, improved collaboration between teams, prioritisation of lists, and increased efficiency with theatre capacity has enabled more timely access to care and improved patient flow. This has also resulted in reductions in waiting lists, with all new outpatients and inpatients/daycase appointments being seen within target.

The rollout of the Patient Initiated Follow Up (PIFU) model in the service has empowered patients to have greater control over their care, reducing the need for unnecessary follow up appointments. For the service, it ensures clinicians have more time to focus on urgent cases.

The service has worked with a range of colleagues to establish standard operating procedures, transfer patients between consultants depending on capacity and better avail of encompass and My Care. Validation has been robust, removing duplicates and inappropriate referrals to ensure accurate lists with real demand. Finally, long-term sustainability has been secured through upskilling and the embedding of new processes, supporting high quality care for years to come.

These initiatives have resulted in improved outcomes for patients, staff and the Trust.

2.2 UKAS inspection of the Regional Andrology Service – P Cahalan

The UKAS renewal inspection of the Regional Andrology Service within the Regional Fertility Centre was completed in late June / early July. The inspection went well with only a small number of recommendations. UKAS have recommended renewal of the accreditation.

3. **Other Updates**

There are no additional details for this update.