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Hospital Quarterly, January to March 2016

Hospital Quarterly is a regular report where we look at the performance of hospitals; looking at timeliness in the emergency department as well as timeliness for people who require elective surgery in NSW. It reports on more than 130 different hospitals across the state as well as providing state level results and results for each of the local health districts.

Emergency department: Measures

Overall, we can see from this report that there has been an increase in the number of people who went to emergency departments across the state, with many hospitals seeing more than a five percent increase in the number of people who presented to the ED compared with one year ago. Despite this, performance has been maintained with regards to the amount of time people waited to receive treatment in NSW emergency departments as well as with regards to the total amount of time that patients spent in the emergency department.

One of the findings from this report is that 91% of patients who arrived to the emergency department by ambulance could have their care transferred to emergency department staff within 30 minutes of presentation and arrival of the ambulance, and this is an improvement of four percentage points compared with same quarter one year ago.

In addition, this report presents for the first time, the proportion of patients who could see treatment staff within clinically recommended timeframes and the report highlights that 75% of patients who went to an emergency department started their treatment on time according to those guidelines; a result that is stable compared with one year ago.

Elective surgery: Measures

In terms of elective surgery procedures, we can see from the report that the number of elective surgery procedures performed in NSW during the latest quarter has gone down slightly compared with one year ago and performance has slightly decreased as well, with 97% of patients receiving their elective surgery on time according to clinical guidelines; a reduction of one percentage point compared with one year ago, and that has been the case for non-urgent surgery as well as semi-urgent surgery, whilst for urgent surgery the result has been maintained at 100% of elective surgery procedures performed on time.

Summary

So overall, the report finds that there has been more people going to hospitals in general in NSW; more people were admitted to hospitals and more people went to an emergency department - the highest number of people found in a quarter as reported by BHI over the last few years.

Overall, emergency department timeliness has maintained its performance, with a good result in terms of improvements in transfer of care from ambulance staff to emergency department staff and also maintenance of elective surgery performance with a slight reduction of elective surgeries performed on time.

All of the results from this report are available through our website on Healthcare Observer, our interactive portal, where you can find results for NSW, local health districts as well as all of the hospitals included in this report.

Bureau of Health Information

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