

## **Briefing note from Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Foundation Trust:**

**Helen Porter, Director of Healthcare Governance.**

### **Annual health check results**

The independent assessment carried out by the Healthcare Commission has rated Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology as 'good' for its use of resources and 'fair' for its quality of services.

The new annual health check assessment replaced the star rating system previously used for grading hospitals up and down the country.

In this year's health check the Trust has received recognition for its financial management and consideration of value for money, as all financial targets have been achieved by the hospital over the last three years.

For quality of services, the work of the hospital in relation to medicines management has been rated as excellent and the Trust as fully compliant with core standards.

Areas highlighted for improvement include having a written policy in place for tackling obesity among in-patients and revising the in-patient smoking policy. Performance against these two components automatically means that the Trust could not be rated higher than 'fair'

Where recommendations have been made in the health check results, they mirror those identified as part of our own self-assessments, so work is already well underway in those areas.

We have already taken significant steps to improve our performance in meeting the 62-day cancer waiting time target, which relate to about 8% of our patients. In the other two areas where we underachieved we have since put new processes in place for managing obesity and are currently revising our smoking policy for overnight patients receiving treatment at the centre.

We recognise there is still more work to be done and will further review the areas where we feel there is room for more improvement.

### **Where are we performing well?**

- Our use of resources has been recognised as good as we have performed well and financial targets have been met for the last three years. This score is based on information carried out as part of the Audit Commission's local evaluation assessment.

- We have fully met all the core standards set by the Healthcare Commission
- We have been recognised as 'excellent' for our work with medicines management.

### **What are our weaknesses / where do we fall down?**

- We failed in our performance to meet the 62-day cancer waiting time target as we were achieving 59% at the time of the assessment.
- We underachieved on not having a written policy in place for dealing with obesity.
- We failed in reducing smoking - as we have not taken away the in-patient smoking room.

The Trust could not receive an overall score of 'good' for quality of services because we received a score of 'fair' in meeting the new national targets relating to obesity and smoking.

### **What are we doing to address areas of weakness?**

#### 62-day cancer waiting time

The hospital's performance in meeting the 62-day cancer waiting time has increased significantly since the time of assessment. It currently stands at 85.7% and is on track to meet the national target of 95% by the end of November 2006.

The Trust has appointed two new members of staff to act as patient navigators. They are currently working with consultant doctors from both our hospital and referring hospitals to put processes in place to allow the earliest appropriate tracking of patients who will need treatment at our centre.

#### Identifying and managing obesity

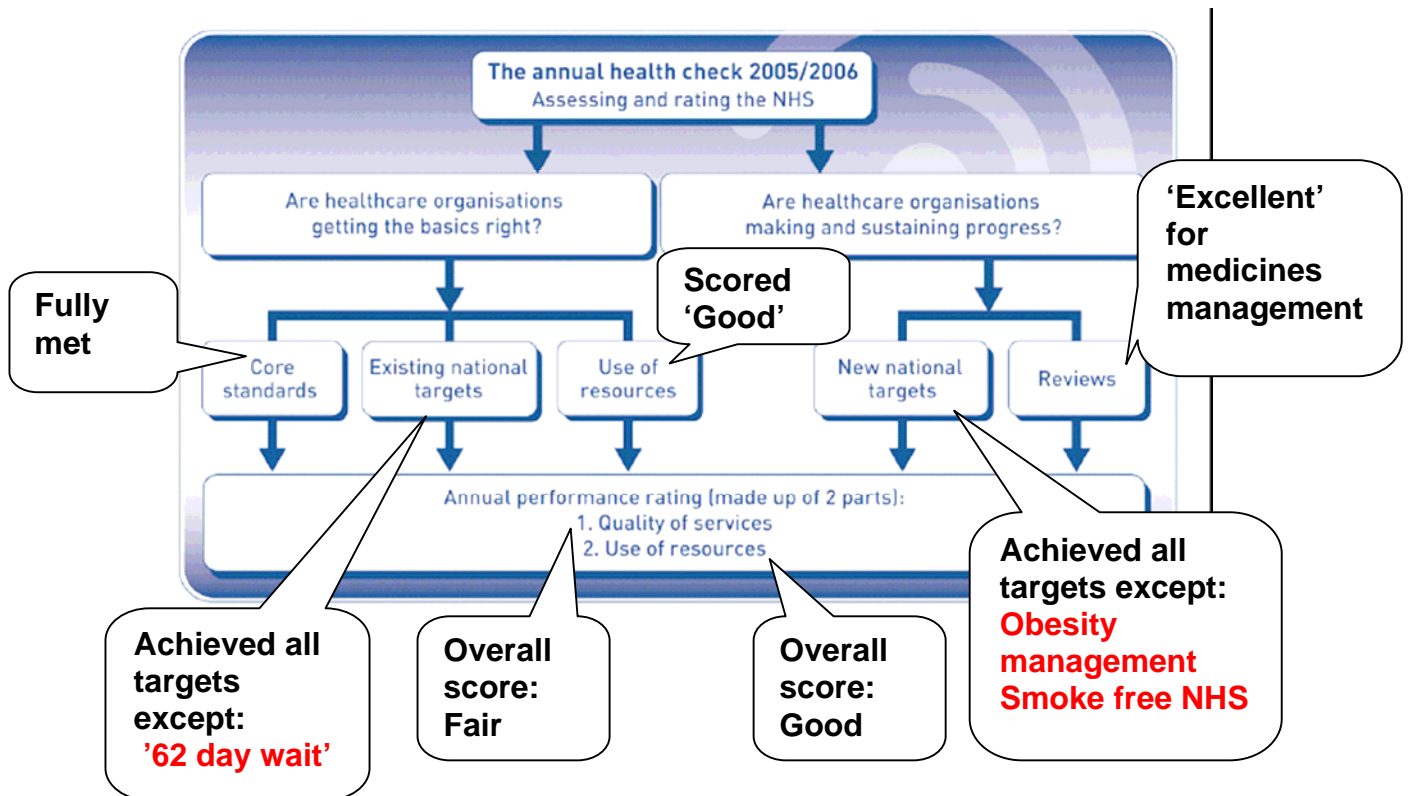
Since the assessment, all in patients are now weighed, measured and their Body Mass Index (BMI) is calculated on arrival at the hospital. Government indicators state that if the BMI is above 30% then we need to take action. While patients are receiving radiotherapy or chemotherapy treatments at the hospital, this is not an appropriate time for dieting. However, processes are now in place to ensure that these patients are provided with relevant dietary health information.

#### Reducing smoking

A smoke free policy is in place at the hospital. However, to date, there is still a small smoking room available to patients who are receiving in-patient treatment. The Trust will need to remove this facility in order to become compliant.

## Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check Performance rating 2005/06:

Quality of services: Fair  
Use of resources: Good



### Areas for improvement:

- 62 day target:**  
Target: 95% compliance  
Action plan in place. Performance currently stands at 85.7% and is on track to meet the national target of 95% by the end of November 2006.
- Obesity management:**  
Target: Does the trust have in place a management process for the identification and onward referral of adult inpatients (where clinically appropriate) with a body mass index of over 30, or over 27 with co-morbidity, to weight advice and management services (including specialist services), either within or outside of the trust?  
Action: Trust is now compliant with target.
- 'Smoke Free' NHS**  
Target: Can the trust demonstrate that it has a smoke free policy in place, in line with 'Choosing health' and 'Guidance for smoke free hospital trusts'?  
Action: Trust to revise smoking policy for inpatients receiving treatment.

#### Note:

Smoke free means that smoking is not permitted anywhere within hospital buildings. No exceptions will be made for staff or visitors. For long stay mental health patients in an acute psychiatric state or terminally ill patients exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis. However, no blanket exceptions will be allowed for particular categories of patients.  
Further indicator detail available

