

COVID-19 – Harm 1: Acute NHS Capacity

Updated 1-Sep with data up to 30-Aug

BRAG

HEADLINES: Non-COVID-19 pressures are significant, notably in terms of A&E, increasing delayed discharges and workforce availability, this is now being effected by increasing Covid19 admissions and occupancy.

COVID-19 Acute Occupancy	↑	NHS boards reported 551 patients in hospital yesterday with recently confirmed COVID-19 (including 52 in ICU for 28 days or less). This compares with 2,053 patients in hospital at the peak in January 2021 and 1,520 at the previous peak in April 2020. Hospital bed occupancy at 30 August overall is 551 compared to 507 yesterday and 356 a week ago (23 August) . Modelling projects over the next few weeks we will see a rise in occupancy, the level of increase is dependant on the continuance and level of increased positive cases.
COVID-19 ICU Occupancy	↔	63 COVID-19 patients in ICU, comprising 52 less than 28 day stay and 11 long stay. ICU occupancy for COVID-19 is projected to continue to rise over the next few weeks. COVID-19 ICU bed occupancy at 30 August overall is 63 compared to 66 yesterday and 55 a week ago (23 August) . Overall, COVID-19 patients (including recently confirmed and long stay) account for 27% of total patients in ICU.
Overall ICU Occupancy	↔	Currently 168 non-COVID-19 patients in ICU. In total there are 231 patients in ICU, 58 above the baseline of 173. The projected rise in ICU Patients with COVID-19 could result in a doubling of baseline capacity requirements at a National level, should the non covid occupancy stay the same or increase.
A&E (attendances)	N/A	Activity across the entire system remains high. During w/e 22 August attendances have increased by 5% when compared to the previous week (96.5% of pre-COVID-19 average levels). With the exception of NHS Forth Valley, NHS Lanarkshire, NHS Lothian, and NHS Orkney, all Boards have seen a drop from pre-Covid averages. Management information suggests an additional increase in the level of planned attendances to A&E through the Redesign of Urgent Care which suggests the level of demand is higher than pre COVID-19 average levels.
A&E (4 and 12hr performance)	↓	Weekly A&E performance continues to be significantly challenged at 74.2% for WTD – the lowest performance on record, down 0.9% from the previous week. Performance for Tuesday 24 August dropped to a new low at 69.2% - the lowest on record for a single day. Officials have been in touch with those sites under pressure including NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and NHS Lanarkshire. There is significant pressure across the whole-system due to a combination of unprecedented demand, high acuity & staff shortages related to COVID-19, vacancies & annual leave.
Delayed Discharges	↓	At 27 August 2021, there were a total of 1,425 delayed discharges impacting on overall capacity of which 49% (702) are acute delays. Acute delays have remained static from 25/08. Partnerships have reported a steep increase in very large packages of care, with people assessed as needing over 30 hours of care per week to get home. Partnerships are also facing shortages of home care staff due to recruitment and retention difficulties, along with increased absenteeism.
Workforce	↓	For 18 th to 24 th August 2021 the total average sickness rate across NHS Scotland Workforce, including COVID-19 for NHS Scotland staff was 5.80% compared to 5.29% last week. The average COVID-19 sickness rate across NHS Scotland staff was 1.12%, compared to 0.81% last week. Non-COVID-19 sickness rate was 4.69%, compared to 4.48% last week. The overall daily absence rate is 15.9% this week, a decrease from last week's 16.5%, this time last year it was 19.3%. The increase in Covid cases and unprecedented pressures across all services are adding further workforce capacity pressure across many boards.
Elective Activity	↔	Elective surgical capacity continues to be challenged and all mainland boards have postponed activity at increasing levels. NHS Borders - routine non urgent surgery has been suspended since 12th August and is likely to continue until at least 3rd September. In addition Urgent Cat 2 surgery was postponed for 26th and 27th of August. NHS GGC - will postpone all non urgent electives from 30 th August for 2 weeks. NHS Grampian - elective activity is significantly reduced. NHS Highland - routine elective surgery has been scaled down to release staff to work in critical care because of bed pressures. NHS Lanarkshire - temporarily postponed the majority of non-urgent elective procedures for the next 2 weeks to free up staff and beds for urgent care (including further step back in Monklands and Wishaw today). NHS Lothian – restriction on booking elective surgeries across most sites. NHS Tayside – stepped down of routine Orthopaedic procedures.

RED – DETERIORATING

INTERNAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION ONLY Health System Risk Summary

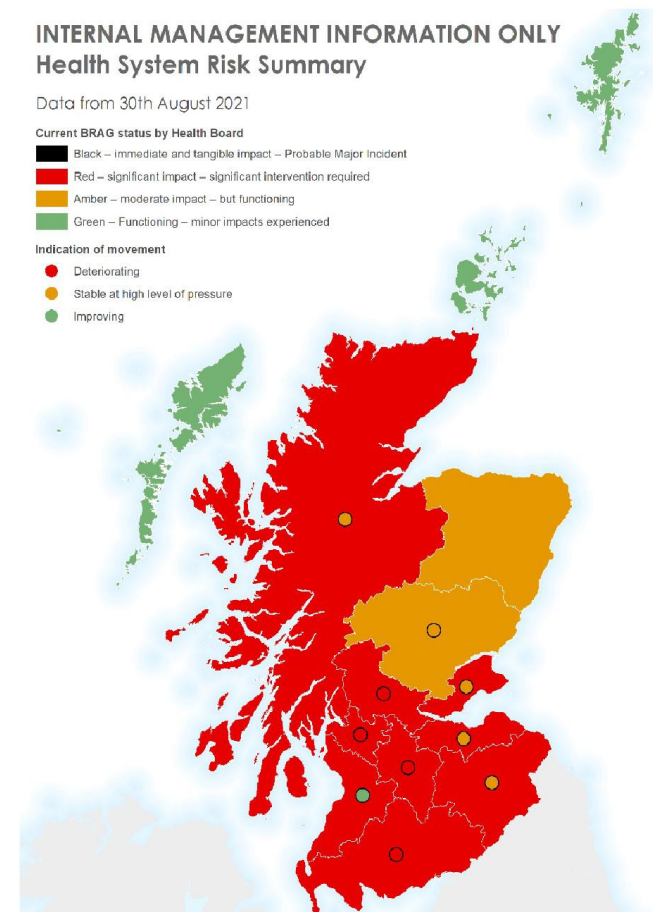
Data from 30th August 2021

Current BRAG status by Health Board

- Black – immediate and tangible impact – Probable Major Incident
- Red – significant impact – significant intervention required
- Amber – moderate impact – but functioning
- Green – Functioning – minor impacts experienced

Indication of movement

- Red – Deteriorating
- Yellow – Stable at high level of pressure
- Green – Improving



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↑ IMPROVING ↓ DETERIORATING ↔ STABLE