



Queensland
Government
Queensland Health

Trends in total hip and knee replacement in Queensland hospitals from 1995/96 to 2006/07.

Paul Fahey, Trisha Johnston, Rachael Wills
Health Statistics Centre, Queensland Health

This report describes the trends in total hip and total knee replacements and revisions (both elective and non-elective) in Queensland hospitals in the past 12 years and their impact on patient bed days. These results are derived from the Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection (QHAPDC) which stores information on all inpatient episodes of care in Queensland.

Figure 1 shows the number of inpatient episodes for total hip replacements have increased rapidly in the past 12 years: more than doubling in private hospitals and increasing by 63% in public hospitals.

Figure 2 shows that the associated number of bed days has not increased at the same rate as the number of procedures. Bed days increased by just 21% in private hospitals and have even fallen slightly in public hospitals. This is probably related to the decrease in the average length of stay which in 2006/07 was 5.9 days and 6.5 days shorter in private and public hospitals than in 1995/96.

Figures 3 and 4 show that while episodes of total knee replacement have more than doubled in both private and public hospitals, associated bed days have increased by only 45% and 9% respectively. The average length of stay has decreased by 6.4 days in private hospitals and 6.6 days in public hospitals in 2006/07 compared with 1995/96.

Compared with 1995/96, in 2006/07 there were an extra 3,724 and 10,017 bed days for hip and knee replacements respectively in private hospitals. In public hospitals bed days decreased by 680 for hip replacements and increased by 1,192 for knee replacements.

The dramatic increases in numbers of hip and knee replacements are not unexpected as the majority of these replacements take place in older patients (average age: 67.8, hip; 69.9, knee) and it has been well established that the Australian population is aging. In Queensland, the population aged 65 years or more has increased by 6.4% over the period 2000-2007. In absolute terms, this equates to an extra 100,000 people in this age-group in 2007 compared with the population in the year 2000.

Figure 1. Number of episodes of care involving total hip replacement in Queensland public and private hospitals, 1995/96 to 2006/07.

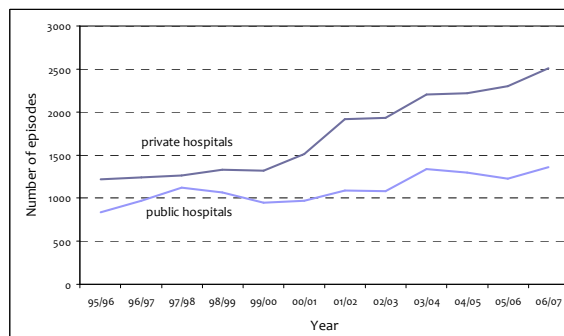


Figure 2. Number of patient days for total hip replacement in Queensland public and private hospitals, 1995/96 to 2006/07.

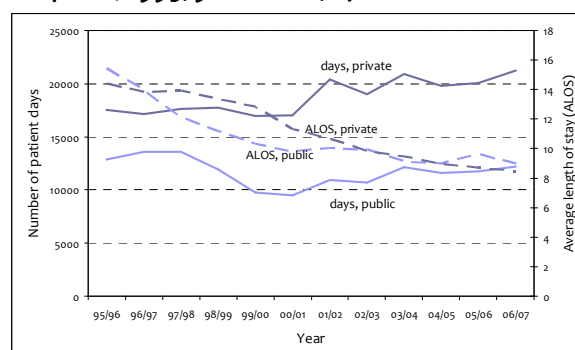


Figure 3. Number of episodes of care involving total knee replacement in Queensland public and private hospitals, 1995/96 to 2006/07.

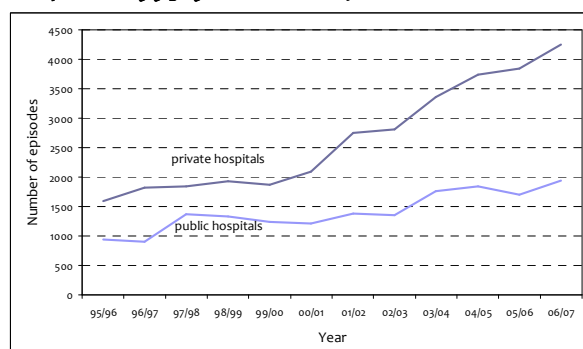


Figure 4. Number of patient days for total knee replacement in Queensland public and private hospitals, 1995/96 to 2006/07.

