

## 2(B) Hospital Services in Kerry

### Acute Hospital Services

#### **Tralee General Hospital**

Tralee General Hospital is the second largest of the Southern Health Board's seven acute hospitals. The hospital provides acute general hospital services to the population of County Kerry (126,130 - 1996 Census) and additionally to a proportion of the populations of West Limerick and North Cork.

A 46-bed geriatric unit servicing the Tralee catchment area is also located in the hospital. Two beds are allocated to respite care.

A 60-place Post Graduate Nurse Training Programme was established in the hospital in April 1994. This programme has been phased out and is being replaced by an Undergraduate Diploma Programme, which commenced in October, 2000.

The annual budget of Tralee General Hospital is approximately €40.6m. The hospital treats 15,000 inpatients per annum and approximately 40,000 patients attend the Outpatients Department annually.

Two consultant general physicians provide medical care of patients with cardiac problems. There is a four-bedded CCU. The staffing levels in the CCU are below the recommended ratio of 2.5 nurses per bed.

- The hospital provides limited stress testing, 24-hour blood pressure monitoring and Holler monitoring. However, there are lengthy waiting lists for these services.
- There is no Echocardiography provided in the hospital.
- There is no dedicated chest pain clinic service available.

#### **Ambulance Service**

The primary role of the Ambulance Service is to provide pre-hospital emergency care and transport for the sick and injured. It provides the Health Board's primary response in major emergencies.

**Kerry:** Tralee, Kenmare, Killarney, Dingle, Caherciveen and Listowel.

**TRALEE GENERAL HOSPITAL - KEY STATISTICS, 1999**

<b>In-patients</b>	272 Acute beds 1999
Discharges	13,833
Inpatient	78,421
Average Length of Stay	5.6 days
Percentage Occupancy	85%
Births	1163
Psychiatric	50 BEDS
Admissions	766
Inpatient days	15,851
Average length of Stay	21 DAYS
Percentage Occupancy	87%

*TRALEE - No. of beds: 309, In-patient admissions: 14,048, Occupancy rate: 80%, Average length of stay: 6.4, Day cases: 4,514, Casualty attendances: 25,715, Dialysis: 1,549.*

<b>Outpatients</b>	
Total attendances	38,059
New Patients	11,043
Medical Assessment Unit Attendances	1671
Accident/Emergency	
Total attendances	29,470
New Patients	24,666
Renal Dialysis	
Attendances	2,446
Operations	4,574
Total Operations	

*Number of Live Births at Tralee General, 1996 was 1,079*

**PRIVATE HOSPITAL - BONS SECOURS**

120 bed spaces

**COMMUNITY HOSPITALS**

<b>Hospital</b>	<b>No. of Beds</b>	<b>Length of stay</b>	<b>Casualty Attendances</b>
<b>Caherciveen</b>	45	63.8	34
<b>Kenmare</b>	26	30.6	68
<b>Killarney</b>	39	17.8	585
<b>Listowel</b>	63	104.9	0
<b>Dingle</b>	47	85.0	132

(Source: Health Statistics 1999)

**SOUTHERN HEALTH BOARD**

Number of GPs in GMS Scheme	282
Number of GPs Known to be in full-time private practice	131
Number of Single GMS GP Practices	164
Number of GMS GP Group Practices	55
Number of Computerised GMS Practices	87
Number of Practice Nurses overall	119

**PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE PROFILE**

Health Board	Population on District Duty	No. Deployed Pop. Per PHN	Average
<b>Southern</b>	534,000	128	4,171.87
<b>Kerry</b>	126,000	34	3,507.88
<b>Nationally</b>	3,539,000	1,067	3,316.77

(Source: Building Healthier Hearths, SHB, June, 2000)

**Persons covered by Medical card.** In 1996 there were 28,160 medical card holders in Co. Kerry.

