



Institute of British-Irish Studies, UCD  
 Unlocking the Potential of Cross-Border Hospital Planning on the Island of Ireland: a Prototype Modelling Framework  
 13 June 2012

Presentation by: Vanya Sargent, Consultant – Crowe Horwath

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Overview of the Study

- Crowe Horwath (formerly Horwath Bastow Charleton) appointed in late 2009 to examine the question of cross-border acute hospital services, and to develop a modelling tool for future use by policy-makers, planners and other key stakeholders;
- The overall aim of the project was to 'identify how cross-border hospital services can provide mutual benefits for the people of the border region' and the key focus was to support strategic cross-border co-operation for a more prosperous and sustainable region by exploring the potential for cross-border hospital services in the Irish border region.
- Outcome: a comprehensive report looking at the context, presenting a modelling framework and a data modelling tool, and examining five acute services as "exemplars", using the framework to consider new and expanded cross-border collaborations in these areas.

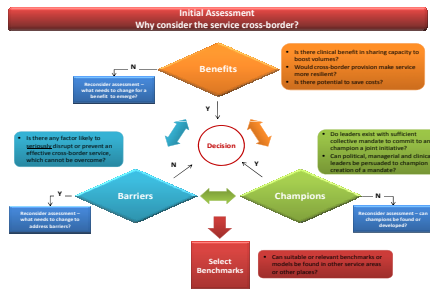
Some Key Issues and Challenges

- The shift from acute to primary and community care – clinical strategies are increasingly focused on delivering care to patients at home or as close to home as possible;
- The model cannot be based upon acute care alone, but recognise the inter-relationships between acute care and primary / community care;
- Complexities of specialty care – different measures of sustainability for different services, and in different jurisdictions (travel times in NI, and population size in RoI);
- Changing demographic profiles North and South;
- Importance of rurality within the overall analysis.

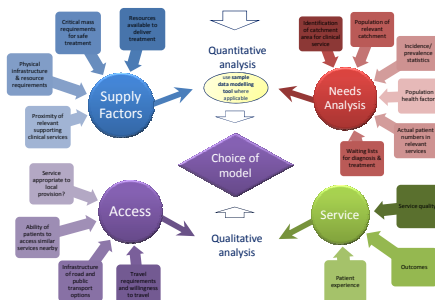
Report Highlights (1)

- The significant barriers in the development of cross-border acute healthcare services can be worked around; however, legislative, administrative, and cultural changes are required for long-term solutions to such obstacles to facilitate wide-scale progress;
- CAWT (Cooperation and Working Together) represents the most appropriate structure for future cross-border health and social care initiatives, including those in the acute sector;
- The modelling framework in the report for cross-border acute healthcare services is a comprehensive and holistic process, incorporating quantitative and qualitative factors (the former supported by a data modelling tool), to generate a series of decision points that contribute to the development of appropriate models for new and restructured services.

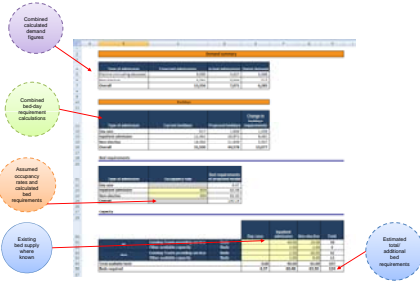
Modelling Framework (1)



Modelling Framework (2)



### Excel Modelling Tool



### Report Highlights (2)

- Community involvement is a crucial aspect in the planning of new and reformed acute hospital services in the border regions, as outlined in the report from the first strand of this research, "The Role of Community Involvement in Hospital Planning";
- The new South West Acute Hospital presents a significant opportunity for fresh thinking in respect of service provision on a cross-border basis;
- Future development of cross-border acute healthcare services should aim to generate a two-way flow of patients across the border, rather than a one-sided approach providing services largely in one jurisdiction to be accessed by patients from the other.

### Looking to the Future – Strategic Implications

- Adverse economic circumstances in both jurisdictions accelerate the need for reform and for delivery of better value – but separate examinations of possible cost reductions ongoing;
- Establishment of the new Fermanagh hospital creates opportunities for innovation on a cross-border basis;
- We recommend further examination of the potential for using the new hospital in Enniskillen as a "test-bed" for pilot cross-border acute projects;
- Opportunities for better planning on a cross-border basis;
- No easy answers, but a more structured dialogue between the two systems is critical to the future of both.

Bastow Charleton  
Member Crowe Horwath International

Marine House  
Clanwilliam Court  
Dublin 2  
Ireland

[www.crowehorwath.ie](http://www.crowehorwath.ie)

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