GIRFT impact summary – elective total hip replacement

Summary

Getting it right first time (GIRFT) is a national programme designed to improve treatment and care by eliminating unwarranted variation through clinically-led and data-driven reviews.

During 2012 Professor Briggs began **visiting all providers of elective orthopaedic care**, culminating in a **national report published in 2015**, and a **follow-up report in 2020**. Professor Briggs has since worked with key stakeholders on several products intended to support providers in safe and effective total hip replacements (THR) with a reduced length of stay, which has progressed to safe and effective delivery day case hip replacements in elective hubs. This case study assesses the impact of **products** and **implementation resource** on the length of stay, emergency readmission rate and method of fixation (if aged 70+) for patients undergoing THR in England.

Dates of trust visits, products and interventions

Where underlined, the list below is linked to supporting information and products

2013 GIRFT orthopaedics team visits begin

2015 A national review of adult elective orthopaedic services in England

2020 Getting It Right in Orthopaedics – Reflecting on success and reinforcing improvement & Gray WK et al. (2020) published in Journal of Arthroplasty

2021 HVLC Orthopaedics work commences

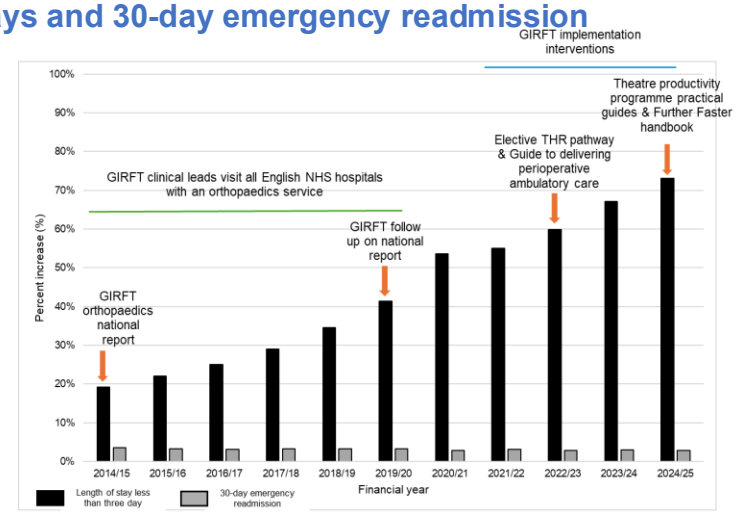
2022 Theatres programme commences

2023 Focused support
Orthopaedic Elective Surgery - Guide to delivering perioperative ambulatory care for patients with hip and knee pain requiring joint replacement surgery
Further Faster cohorts 1 and 2
Elective Hubs

2024 Further Faster cohort 3
Theatre Productivity Programme Practical Guides - Module 2: Theatre Waiting List Management and List Allocation
Theatre Productivity Programme Practical Guides - Module 3: Theatre Scheduling
Theatre Productivity Programme Practical Guides - Module 4: Patient Preparation and Effective Theatre Flow
Theatre Productivity Programme Practical Guides - Module 5: Surgical Discharge
Further Faster Orthopaedics Handbook - master handbook
NCIP orthopaedics compartment launches
Length of stay project commences
Further Faster 20

2026 Orthopaedics elective primary total hip replacement pathway

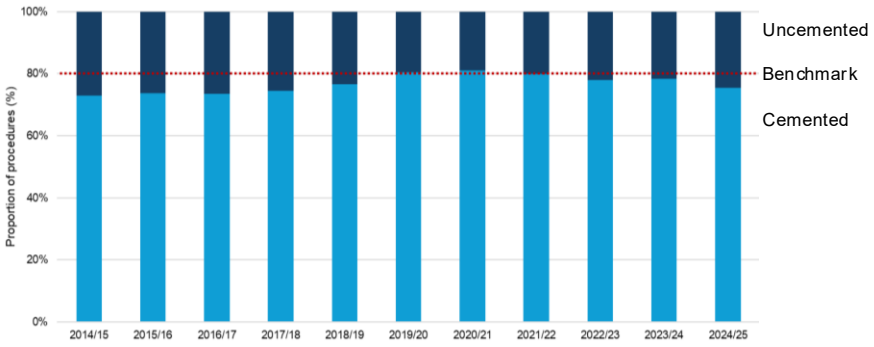
England provider median – length of stay under three days and 30-day emergency readmission



Observations 2014/15 to 2024/25

- Length of stay < 3 days post procedure increased significantly. The largest rates of increased occurred in the 12 months after GIRFT Academy products were released.
- 30-day readmissions rates remained consistent throughout.
- Use of cement for fixation in THR for patients over 70 reached the benchmark in 2020/21, but not since.

Hip replacement method for patients aged 70+



Strengths and limitations

GIRFT has worked closely with organisations and stakeholders looking to improve patient care and service efficiency, although it is not possible to establish a direct correlation between GIRFT Academy products and the subsequent improvement of the quality of care in the specialty.

View metrics on the Model Health System >

Contact for further information: girft.academy@nhs.net