

Explanatory Notes

All cases (locked and unlocked) admitted to hospital between 01 April 2026 and 30 June 2026 have been included. Only cases where the necessary data are available have been included in the denominator for each individual analysis.

At hospital level, runcharts are compared to hospitals within the same ICB.

The results for process measures for which fewer than 10 cases have available data will not be reported. Instead the value will be marked as 'Insufficient data'.

Mortality

This section defines three key mortality measures for the monthly report. In all cases we include only patients whose surgery-to-discharge interval (Q4.1 - Q7.8) is ≤ 30 days, and we exclude any with missing discharge status (Q7.7) or missing dates (Q4.1/Q7.8).

1. 30-Day Observed (Crude) Mortality Rate

Let

- d = number of patients who **died** within 30 days of surgery,
- N = total number of patients with known discharge status (alive, died, or still in hospital at 60 days).

Then the crude 30-day mortality rate (as a percentage) is

$$\text{Crude 30-day Mortality Rate} = \frac{d}{N} \times 100.$$

2. Standardised Mortality Ratio (SMR)

Let

- $O = d$ = observed deaths within 30 days,
- $E = \sum_i \text{RiskScore}_i$ = sum of individual parsimonious NELA mortality risk scores for all N patients.

The SMR is

$$\text{SMR} = \frac{O}{E}.$$

3. Risk-Adjusted Mortality

Combines the SMR with the **National** 30-day mortality rate for the examined three month period:

$$\text{Risk-Adjusted Mortality} = \text{SMR} \times (\text{National 30-day mortality}) \times 100.$$

For better insight to how these standards have been structured, please refer to the **NELA standards document**.

Quarterly mean performance



Overall performance

RAG rating boundaries



Hospital performance

Number of patients included 38
Data completeness 81.6%
National mean 65%

RAG rated standard and date range

Risk-adjusted mortality

Rating boundaries are lower and upper 99.8% and 95% confidence limits



Non-risk-adjusted measures

Rating boundaries are lower and upper national quartiles

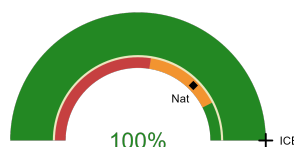


Watford General Hospital

2026-27 Reporting Period 3: 01 April 2026 - 30 June 2026

These plots represent patients having an emergency laparotomy during Year 2026-27 Reporting Period 3 of NELA data collection. This version will be made publicly available via the NELA website. Feedback from participating hospitals is welcome.

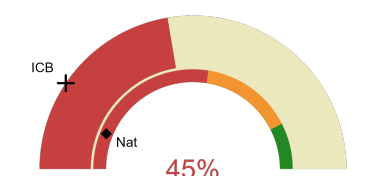
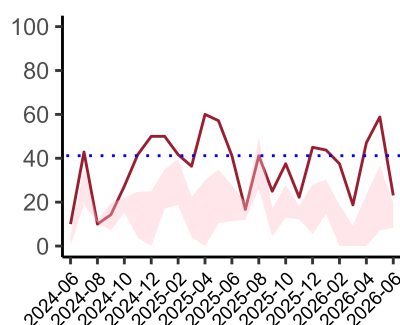
NELA process and outcome measures



Estimated case ascertainment
01 April 2026 - 30 June 2026

Estimated case ascertainment (Based on HES/PEDW Data)

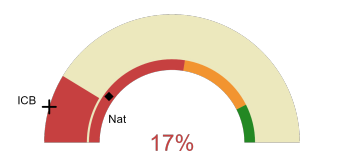
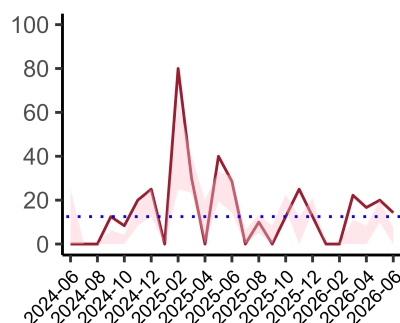
Expected number of cases 46
Total cases entered 57
Cases locked 56
Cases unlocked 1



Proportion of patients who had a CT scan that
was reported by a senior radiologist (ST3+)
and communicated with the team
in the correct time scale before surgery
01 April 2026 - 30 June 2026

CT reported by a senior radiologist (ST3+) and communicated with the team in the correct time scale before surgery.

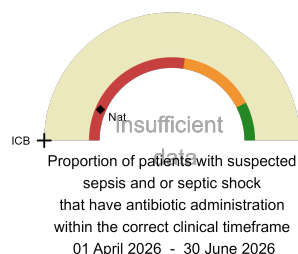
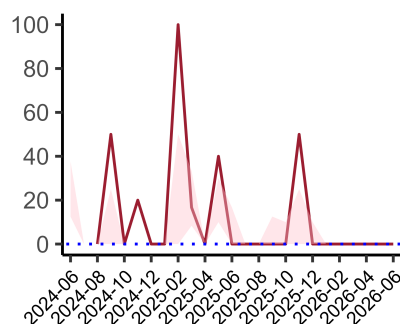
National mean 12%
ICB mean 19%
Number of patients included 47
Data completeness 100%



Proportion of patients with suspected
sepsis or infection that have antibiotic
administration within the correct clinical timeframe
01 April 2026 - 30 June 2026

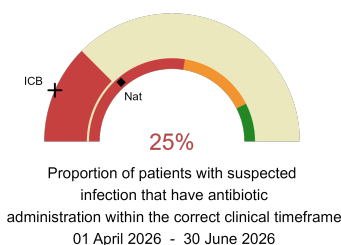
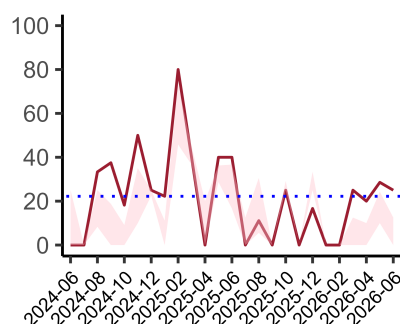
Combined Infection management standard - antibiotic administration within the correct clinical timeframe

National mean 20%
ICB mean 9%
Number of patients included 23
Data completeness 100%



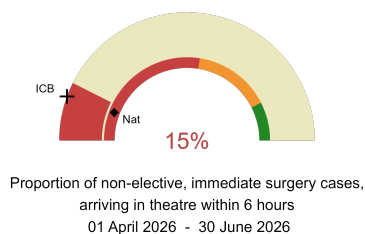
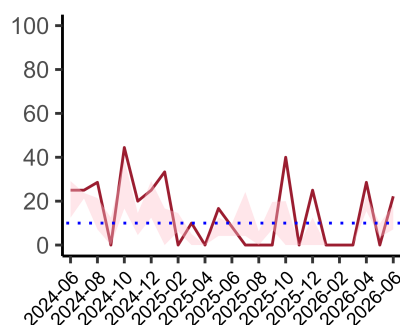
Sepsis/septic shock - antibiotic administration within the correct clinical timeframe

National mean 13%
ICB mean 0%
Number of patients included 7
Data completeness 100%



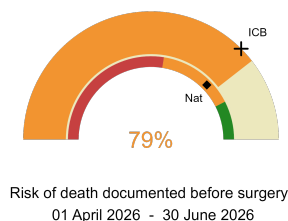
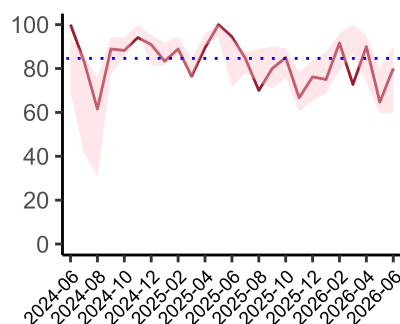
Infection - antibiotic administration within the correct clinical timeframe

National mean 27%
ICB mean 13%
Number of patients included 16
Data completeness 70%



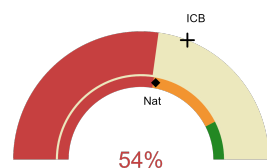
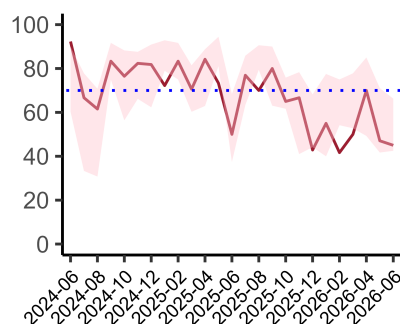
Non-elective, immediate surgery cases, arriving in theatre within 6 hours.

National mean 12%
ICB mean 11%
Number of patients included 27
Data completeness 100%



Risk documented before surgery

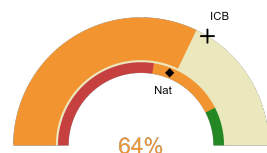
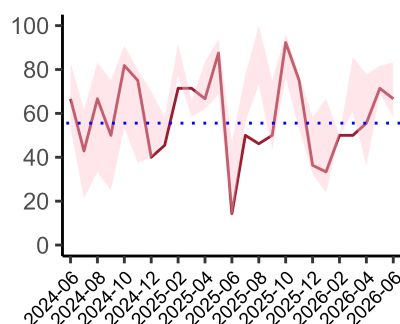
National mean 75%
ICB mean 75%
Number of patients included 57
Data completeness 100%



Risk of death documented after surgery
01 April 2026 - 30 June 2026

Risk documented after surgery

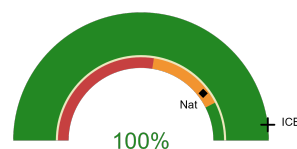
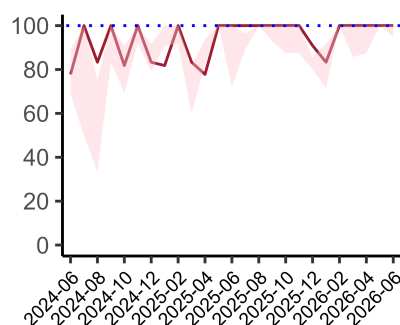
National mean 56%
ICB mean 62%
Number of patients included 57
Data completeness 100%



Admitted to critical care following surgery when the risk of death $\geq 5\%$ (Excludes patients who died in theatre or with a decision to palliate)
01 April 2026 - 30 June 2026

Admitted to Critical Care (risk of death $\geq 5\%$)

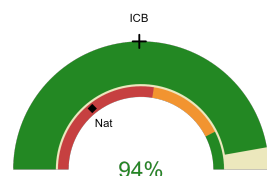
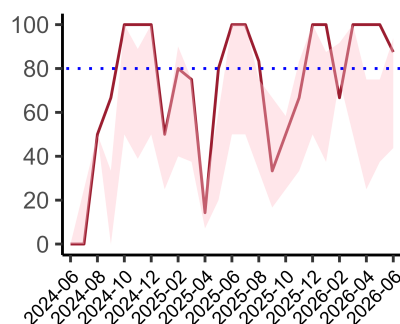
National mean 62%
ICB mean 67%
Number of patients included 28
Data completeness 100%



Consultant surgeon and anaesthetist present in theatre when risk of death $\geq 5\%$
01 April 2026 - 30 June 2026

Consultant Anaesthetist & Consultant Surgeon in theatre (risk of death $\geq 5\%$)

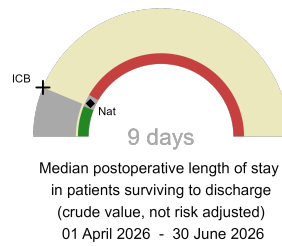
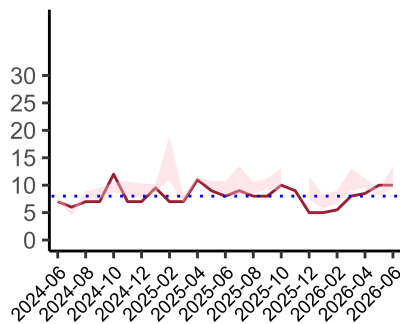
National mean 79%
ICB mean 96%
Number of patients included 26
Data completeness 84%



Perioperative assessment by a care of the older person specialist
01 April 2026 - 30 June 2026

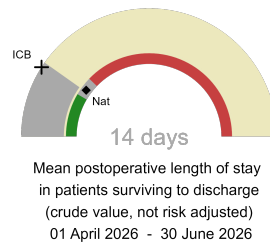
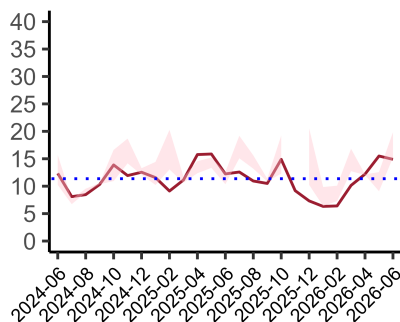
Perioperative Assessment by a member of the geriatrician-led multidisciplinary team for patient aged 65 or over and frail (CFS ≥ 5) or 80+

National mean 28%
ICB mean 50%
Number of patients included 18
Data completeness 100%



Median postoperative length of stay

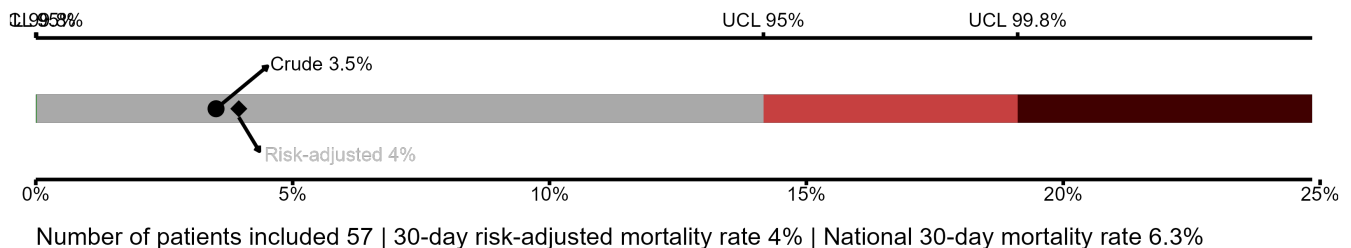
National median 10 days
ICB median 9 days
Number of patients included 55
Data completeness 100%



Mean postoperative length of stay

National mean 15 days
ICB mean 13 days
Number of patients included 55
Data completeness 100%

Risk-Adjusted Mortality



Integrated Care Board

Watford General Hospital is part of the NHS Hertfordshire And West Essex Integrated Care Board ICB. This comprises Princess Alexandra Hospital, Watford General Hospital, Lister Hospital.