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Independent audit praises theatre planning and performance

An independent review has praised the way theatres are planned and managed at Wirral University Teaching Hospital, recognising the strong systems in place to support safe, efficient care for patients.

The review, carried out by the Mersey Internal Audit Agency, looked at how operating theatres are organised and managed, including how theatre time is planned, monitored and used.

Auditors concluded that the Trust has effective systems in place and that these are being used consistently across the service.



The review highlighted several areas of good practice, including the Trust's 6 4 2 planning process, which helps teams organise theatre lists and make the best use of available operating time. The Theatre Improvement Workstream Steering Group was also recognised for its role in driving continuous improvements.

The audit also praised the use of live theatre scheduling dashboards, which give teams an up to date view of theatre activity and help identify issues early so they can be addressed quickly.

As part of the review, auditors looked at a sample of operations carried out between April and June 2026. They found that, where expected levels of activity could be planned for, theatres achieved productivity of more than 85 per cent.

One recommendation was made to further strengthen routine data checks. Work to implement this improvement is already underway through the Theatre Improvement Workstream.

The findings recognise the hard work of colleagues across Perioperative Services and the Surgical Division, whose ongoing focus on planning, teamwork and continuous improvement is helping to deliver high quality care for patients every day.