

Tullamore man 150,000th patient to be treated by NTPF

The National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) today announced it has reached the milestone of arranging treatment for 150,000 public patients in Ireland since its establishment in 2002. Overall waiting times for operations have reduced during this time from two to five years in 2002 to an average of 2.8 months today.

The Fund's 150,000th patient is 64 year old Mr. John Keegan from Ballydrohid, Tullamore, Offaly who had been on a waiting list for prostate surgery since March 2009. He received his operation at St. Francis Hospital in Mullingar in August 2009.

Commenting on the announcement NTPF Chief Executive Pat O'Byrne said, "Behind all the statistics of the Fund is a wealth of human stories. They are all public patients who had been waiting too long for operations, unable for whatever reason to access the system in a timely manner.

With the help of the National Treatment Purchase Fund they are now treated and at home with their families enjoying a better quality of life. In Ireland today there is no need for anyone to be waiting a long time for operations. The National Treatment Purchase Fund acts as a safety valve for public patients by getting them treated faster. Patients are treated in a private hospital as close as possible to their home."

In 2002, the NTPF helped a total of 1,920 patients. Patients from all over the country have been facilitated by the Fund at this time. The first patient was a lady from Dublin, who had her operation in a Dublin hospital in June 2002.

She had been waiting four and a half years for her operation. Operations provided by the NTPF have covered a wide range of procedures and specialties,

with ENT (26%), Orthopaedic Surgery (16%), Ophthalmology (13%) and General Surgery (10%) being the specialties in which the Fund has arranged the highest number of treatments.

During 2009 the Fund expects to arrange faster treatment for a total of 30,000 public patients.