

## **Information Note about outpatient appointment – please read this page**

### **What is an outpatient appointment?**

An outpatient appointment is where you come to the hospital to meet with a Consultant. A Consultant is a highly trained medical doctor who can:

- carry out tests,
- establish what is needed,
- give medical advice about your symptoms or condition, and
- provide treatment.

You may need to have a test or scan at your appointment, or there may be a need to arrange for you to come back on another day for a test or scan. As an outpatient you will not stay overnight at the hospital.

### **Why am I being offered an outpatient appointment in a private hospital?**

You are on a waiting list for an outpatient appointment with our hospital and we cannot offer you an appointment date yet. We want you to have an outpatient appointment date as soon as possible. The private hospital can provide the appointment and care sooner than we can. We are working with the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) to provide this offer. The NTPF is a state body that can arrange for another hospital to see you sooner. The NTPF will cover the cost of this offer.

### **What does the offer cover?**

This offer covers the outpatient appointment, and any further testing and / or procedure that may be needed.

### **What happens if I accept the offer?**

If you accept this offer, you will receive an outpatient appointment date sooner than if you stay on our outpatient waiting list. Once the NTPF receives your acceptance of the offer, you will be contacted by the private hospital with an appointment date, directions and additional details.

### **What happens if I do not accept the offer?**

- If you select 'No, I do not accept the offer and I wish to continue waiting on the outpatient waiting list', you will remain on the outpatient waiting list of our hospital.
- If you select 'No, I do not accept the offer and I wish to be removed from the outpatient waiting list', you will be removed from the outpatient waiting list. A letter will be sent to both you and your GP (family doctor) to confirm this.

### **Where is the offer being made?**

The NTPF has made every effort to select the nearest suitable private hospital to your current public hospital.

### **Why am I being asked for a contact phone number?**

If you accept this offer, you are required to provide a phone number so the private hospital can contact you.