

NTPF exceeds treatment targets for 2018
- over 26,000 patients accept offers of NTPF funded treatment in 2018

December 2018 Waiting Lists Published

The National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) today confirmed that, by the end of December, almost 22,000 public patients waiting for surgery had accepted an offer of NTPF funded treatment, exceeding its 2018 target by 2,000 patients. In addition, the NTPF has also arranged over 4,000 Gastro Intestinal Scopes.

This work has contributed to a significant reduction in the number of public patients waiting for an appointment for surgery, which peaked at 86,111 in July 2017. At the end of December there were 15,907 fewer public patients waiting (a reduction of 18.5%). This trend was also apparent in December, with a reduction of 785 over the month. The only month in 2018 that did not see a reduction in the surgery waiting list was March, when Storm Emma led to the cancellation of a large number of elective surgeries.

Also, since July 2017 the number of patients waiting over 3 months for an appointment for surgery has reduced by 31% (from 57,998 to 40,231), while the number waiting over 9 months reduced by 47% (from 28,124 to 14,910).

Commenting, NTPF Chief Executive Liam Sloyan said: "The NTPF arranged treatment for more than 26,000 patients in 2018. This work has contributed to real improvements in waiting times for patients waiting for surgery. There has been a reduction of 18.5% in the number of patients waiting for an appointment for surgery since July 2017 and a 47% reduction in the number waiting more than 9 months. In view of Slaintecare targets, it is particularly encouraging to contribute to a reduction of 18,000 or 31% in the number of patients waiting more than three months, which is at its lowest level since 2014. Of course, there is still much work to be done and we look forward to making more progress in 2019."

The latest **public hospital waiting list data** was published today by the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF). According to the data, at the end of December:

- 70,204 patients were waiting for an appointment for their inpatient or daycase treatment, (a reduction of 785 in December).
- 18,847 patients were waiting to receive an appointment for their GI Endoscopy, (an increase of 545 in December).

- 516,162 patients are waiting for a first hospital outpatient consultation (an increase of 802 in December).

In addition, the NTPF publishes data on Pre admit, Planned Procedure and Suspension lists.

- The Pre-Admit data shows that 25,113 have been given a date for their Inpatient / Daycase or Endoscopy procedure.
- 73,374 patients are recorded in the Planned Procedure category and 60,753 of these patients have indicative dates in the future or have an appointment. These are patients who have already had treatment and require further treatment at a future date (e.g. a patient who has had a scope may require surveillance monitoring scopes in the future) and have been assigned indicative dates for treatment. These indicative dates are determined by a clinician and treatment before these dates would not be appropriate. As more patients are initially seen and given a follow-up appointment for ongoing treatment or surveillance the number of patients on the Planned Procedure list increases.
- 14,027 patients are classified as suspended. Patients who are temporarily unfit or unable to attend due to clinical or personal/social reasons are categorised as 'Suspension'. The Suspension category is also used where patients are being treated through various Insourcing or Outsourcing Initiatives.

Ends

11 January 2019

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Additional Notes re 2019 Budget

- The NTPF has been allocated €75m in 2019, an increase of €20m on 2018.
- In 2019, the Fund will arrange treatment for 25,000 patients on the active Inpatient / Daycase (IPDC) waiting list, 5,000 Gastrointestinal Endoscopies and 40,000 first-time outpatient consultant appointments.