

NTPF delivers on treatment targets for 2018
- over 20,500 patients avail of faster NTPF procedures by end of November

November 2018 Waiting Lists Published

NTPF to Support HSE Winter Plan

The National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) today confirmed that, by the end of November, 20,512 public patients waiting for surgery had accepted an offer of NTPF funded treatment, and with referrals still ongoing, it has exceeded its full year 2018 target of 20,000 patients. In addition, the NTPF has also arranged 4,000 Gastro Intestinal Scopes to date this year.

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 November there were 15,122 fewer public patients waiting (a reduction of 18%). This trend continued in November, with a reduction of 1,012 over the month.

Also, since July 2017 the number of patients waiting over 3 months for an appointment for surgery has reduced by 28% (from 57,998 to 41,630), while the number waiting over 9 months reduced by 41% (from 28,124 to 16,711).

Commenting, NTPF Chief Executive Liam Sloyan said: "The NTPF has arranged treatment for almost 25,000 patients to date this year. This work has contributed to real improvements in waiting times for patients waiting for surgery. There has been a reduction of 18% in the number of patients waiting for an appointment for surgery since July 2017, while the number waiting more than 3 months has reduced by 28%. 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 November:

- 70,989 patients were waiting for an appointment for their inpatient or daycase treatment, (a reduction of 1,012 in November).
- 18,302 patients were waiting to receive an appointment for their GI Endoscopy, (an increase of 420 in November).
- 515,360 patients are waiting for a first hospital outpatient consultation (a reduction of 1,003 in November).

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

- The Pre admit data shows that 26,596 have been given a date for their Inpatient / Daycase or Endoscopy procedure.
- 72,322 patients are recorded in the Planned Procedure category and 59,826 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.
- 13,398 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.

Separately, the NTPF announced that it is to support the HSE's **Winter Plan**, through the establishment of a €1m fund for diagnostic services for patients presenting at Emergency Departments in December and January. Patients who present at Emergency Departments can wait a considerable time for diagnostic services. Under the collaboration between the NTPF and the HSE, the NTPF will fund additional services in both private and public facilities, thereby speeding up access for patients.

Ends

13th December 2018

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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.