

National Treatment Purchase Fund welcomes €75m Budget 2019 allocation

The National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) today welcomed its €75m Budget 2019 allocation and outlined its plans to continue the significant progress made over the past 14 months in reducing the number of public patients waiting for Inpatient / Daycase treatment and to increase its activity in relation to outpatients.

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.

The National Treatment Purchase Fund is committed to continued improvement in waiting list accuracy. With this in mind, the new National Centralised Validation Unit was recently established in the NTPF to work closely with Hospital Groups and Individual Hospitals. It is projected that this work will result in the removal of around 30,000 people who do not require hospital care from waiting lists, freeing up offers of appointments for patients who are ready, willing and available to proceed with hospital care. The Fund will also fulfil its role in the management and reporting of public hospital waiting lists and agreeing pricing arrangements with private & voluntary nursing homes under the Nursing Homes Support Scheme.

Working with the HSE and the Department of Health, the NTPF has contributed to a 14% reduction in the number of public patients waiting for an appointment for elective surgery since July 2017, the month NTPF commissioned treatment began to impact. There were 11,922 fewer patients on the active Inpatient / Daycase (IPDC) waiting list at the end of August 2018 compared to July 2017.

More than 15,000 people on the active IPDC waiting list have accepted offers of treatment from the NTPF this year to date, contributing to the overall fall in numbers waiting. Notably, the number of patients waiting more than 9 months for treatment has reduced by 28.5% since July 2017.

Welcoming the budget allocation, NTPF Chief Executive Officer Liam Sloyan said, “Real progress has been made for public patients waiting for surgery over the past 14 months, with the numbers on the active Inpatient / Daycase waiting list for elective surgery falling by 14%. Together, the NTPF, HSE and Department of Health have delivered tangible results. The NTPF welcomes its budget allocation for 2019 and plans to use it efficiently and effectively to build on its work to date for public patients.”

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