



The Hon Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Medical Research

M14/256

24 FEB 2014

Dear

Thank you for your correspondence concerning the peritonectomy service at St George Hospital. This is an important service, which is carried out by South Eastern Sydney Local Health District.

Peritonectomy is a highly specialised surgery, with complex after care, which is undertaken for a number of clinical conditions. After initial patient consultation with the doctor, referrals are reviewed by the Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team, which includes Professor Morris, to determine on a clinical basis the most appropriate and urgent NSW peritonectomy cases to be undertaken.

Mr Terry Clout, Chief Executive of South Eastern Sydney Local Health District has advised that this matter is not a budget issue. St George Hospital is provided with a budget that is determined on the number of services it offers to the community and projected growth of the population. The budget is allocated based on the clinical needs of the patients in the specialties offered at the Hospital. The St George Hospital budget has increased by \$12 million this year and peritonectomy surgery will continue to be met through the allocated budget.

Like all hospitals, St George Hospital manages its operating theatres according to clinical priority and ensuring all the specialties at the Hospital have appropriate access to theatre time. St George Hospital relies on the advice of its clinicians, who consider clinical need and appropriateness, when making decisions on the type of care and services offered to patients and the community.

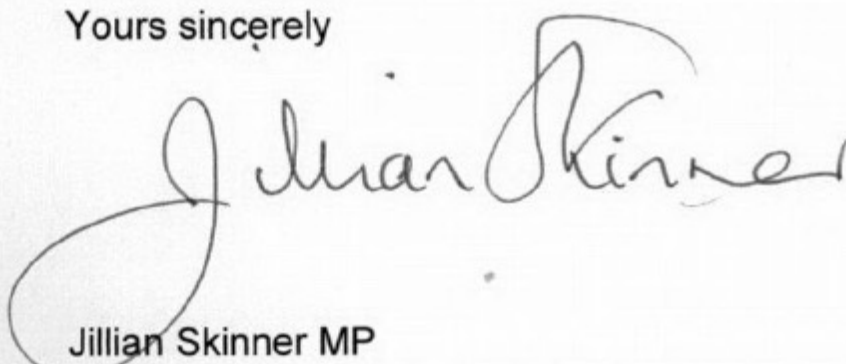
Peritonectomy patients require a lengthy time in the Intensive Care Unit and this needs to be considered for each patient so that they can receive the best post-operative care. The Hospital's Clinical Council has determined that six peritonectomy surgeries, including emergency peritonectomies, can be performed each month. This decision is based on meeting the needs of all surgical patients for services provided at St George Hospital.

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Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention. Should further information be required, the contact officer, Ms Cath Whitehurst, Director of Operations, St George and Sutherland Hospitals and Health Services, is available on 9113 2859.

Yours sincerely



Jillian Skinner MP