



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**

Ref No. D13013628 / D13013399

Dear Ms Jaundrell

Thank you for your correspondence of 9 and 14 November 2013 to the Minister for Health and Minister for Sport, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, regarding access to peritonectomy services. The Minister has asked me to reply. I am sorry to learn of your condition and the distress it is causing you and your family.

States and territories are the system managers of public hospitals, which includes responsibility for planning and delivery of public hospital services. States and territories are also responsible for arrangements regarding access to public hospital services in another state (known as cross-border arrangements). For complex, very high cost and non-standard treatment, Local Hospital Networks (LHNs) or state health departments liaise with the other jurisdiction regarding access, clinical prioritisation, and to negotiate costs.

The Commonwealth has no direct involvement with the planning and delivery of public hospital services, or setting cross-border arrangements. In addition, the Commonwealth Minister for Health does not have the power to direct states to provide particular services at specific hospitals to individual patients. As such, your access to peritonectomy surgery in New South Wales, is matter for the Queensland and New South Wales Health Ministers.

I note that you have provided the Queensland Minister for Health, the Hon Lawrence Springborg MP, and the New South Wales Minister for Health, the Hon Jillian Skinner MP, with a copy of your correspondence of 9 November 2013. I trust the Ministers will respond to you, addressing your concerns.

I understand that the New South Wales Government has recently announced that it will provide additional peritonectomy surgeries. The Australian Government currently provides a funding contribution for all public hospital services and New South Wales' decision to extend access to this important procedure is most welcome.

In your correspondence of 9 November 2013, you suggest that peritonectomy surgery be included in the Nationally Funded Centres (NFC) Program. As you may be aware, the NFC Program funds complex services that are high cost, highly specialised clinical services with limited demand. Criteria for consideration when a service is assessed for NFC status include: clinical need; safety and clinical effectiveness; service delivery; financial implications; and site issues. The Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC) determines suitability of a technology for NFC status.

New South Wales nominated peritonectomy for NFC status in 2006 and 2010. AHMAC did not support peritonectomy for inclusion under the NFC Program because there was insufficient evidence to support its effectiveness at that time. As states and territories are the system managers of public hospitals and nominate services for inclusion in the NFC Program, you may wish to raise this issue with Ministers Springborg and Skinner.

---

I trust that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Sebar  
Assistant Secretary  
Financing & Analysis Branch  
17 December 2013