

23 April 2013

To address, and name of the recipient has been removed from the original letter:



The Hon Jillian Skinner MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Medical Research

M13/2070

23 APR 2013

Thank you for your correspondence seeking an update on peritonectomy surgery at St George Hospital.

I am advised by Mr Terry Clout, Chief Executive, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, that the District is committed to continuing peritonectomy surgery at St George Hospital. I wish to assure you that options for the most appropriate way of managing the growing demand for this surgery are being thoroughly explored.

While the District and the Ministry of Health work toward a long-term solution, patients will continue to be prioritised according to their clinical need. It is regrettable that sometimes patients do have to wait for surgery in our hospitals; however, we are working toward better services.

I note that increasing access to operating theatre times is not a comprehensive solution as complex surgery requires complex follow up, with patients requiring access to intensive care units and ward beds. Hospitals must consistently assess operating theatre capacity against the needs of all surgery specialities. At St George Hospital, the Clinical Council carefully assesses this to ensure equity of access for all patients.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Cath Whitehurst, Director of Operations, St George / Sutherland Hospitals and Health Services, on 9113 2122.

Yours sincerely

Jillian Skinner MP