

## Public Operating Lists

This is to inform you that you have been placed on the waiting list as a Public Patient for surgery at Monash Health.

### What does this mean?

Public hospitals generally have pooled waiting lists where all patients await their turn for surgery or treatment and are allocated to the next available or most appropriate surgical operating list. Surgical operating time is an extremely scarce resource and is extremely expensive, costing around \$ 50.00 per minute. Most public hospitals are already operating at their peak capacity however there are frequently long waiting lists which in some cases may range from six to eighteen months for certain procedures such as laparoscopy. Once you are referred to the Public Waiting List, my office no longer has any direct influence on when you will be admitted and what operating list you will be allocated to.

### Who will be doing the Surgery?

As waiting lists are pooled, it is usual that I will **not** be the primary surgeon involved in your surgery. Public hospitals are by their very nature training institutions and most surgery is carried out by Registrars (doctors training to be consultants) under close supervision. However, there may be some cases where due to the nature or complexity of your surgery and the available operating resources within the particular hospital, I will seek to do your surgery myself but it is still by no means guaranteed.

### Post-Operative Care

In a public hospital setting, post-operative and ward management is undertaken by Resident Medical and Registrar staff. It is unusual that I would be directly involved in your care on the ward. If you choose to return to my rooms for consultation to discuss results and surgery performed after your operation, then I would be only too happy to see you.

## What happens next?

You will need to complete all details on the Request for Elective Admission (REA) form and sign the consent. Only then will you be added to the waiting list. In some cases it may be necessary to have a Pre-Admission Clinic meeting with hospital staff prior to operation. Following that you will wait to be notified of your operation time. Gynaecology operating at Southern Health takes place at the Moorabbin Campus, Centre Road, East Bentleigh, and at Dandenong, Casey and Cranbourne hospitals. If you have any queries regarding your waiting list status or date of surgery, these should be directed to the elective surgery booking centre (Freecall 1800 786 188). If you have exhausted those avenues then contact my rooms where my secretary will act as an intermediary between you and the hospital.

## On the Day of the Operation

After admission to hospital you should be able to meet the Resident Medical Staff and the Consultant responsible for your operation. Unfortunately unless I am directly involved in your operation and this takes place in the private sector, I am unable to be responsible for the booking of the procedure, the assistant or the anaesthetist. If you do not have private insurance and the diagnosis for which we are operating on you is still unknown, you might like to consider obtaining private insurance or getting a quote for treatment as a self funded patient, which my secretary will be only too happy to help you with.

