



**W**ELCOME BACK TO THE 2ND EDITION OF MATER PRIVATE NEWS. We hope that you found the first newsletter useful and we welcome any comments or feedback you may have.

In this edition we are focusing on Cardiology Services and also on Health Insurance cover. As you will know, with the wide and varied range of health insurance plans on the market, it is often confusing as to what is and isn't covered. We regularly receive phone calls from patients, or their GP, concerned that their insurance plan will not cover them at Mater Private. More often than not they are surprised to learn that there is a substantial level of cover provided across most insurance plans. On the back page, there are tables with the level of cover by the most popular plans. We hope it helps!

The Consultant Directory included with this newsletter is hot off the press. I hope it is a handy resource for you. The consultant list is regularly updated on our website [www.materprivate.ie](http://www.materprivate.ie)

Also, the website has been updated with information on our reorganised Retinal Services and common retinal conditions such as Macular Degeneration and Diabetic Retinopathy.

Finally, we have recently confirmed a GP Study Day on May 23rd – we are planning a varied agenda with presentations and round table discussions hosted by many of our Consultants. Please contact me if you would like to register and book a place.

Enjoy your read and as always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any enquiries.



*Shauna Crimmins*  
**Shauna Crimmins**, GP Liaison Manager  
 Mobile: 086 1737464

## DUAL SOURCE CT – 1000 PATIENTS

**D**ecember 2006 the Mater Private installed Ireland's first Dual Source CT 128 Slice Scanner with high speed cardiac scanning - among the first twenty to be installed in the world. Over 1000 patients have already benefitted from this non-invasive diagnostic tool.

As the heart is a rapidly moving muscle it is hard to get a snapshot image. Unlike the 16 or 64 slice scanners, the Dual Source scanner can cope with normal heart rates and does not always require the patient to take beta blockers before the scan. Other benefits of the scanner include additional software which enables detection of features suspicious for lung and colon cancer; the ability to carry out 'Virtual Colonoscopy' in place of an invasive colonoscopy.

Patient Benefits:

- Fastest cardiac acquisition within the shortest possible breath-hold
- Ability to image patients who were previously denied such imaging due to cardiac rate or rhythm
- Avoids the need for invasive angiography in patients who are not considered at high risk; who do not display significant symptoms but have risk factors such as high cholesterol or family history
- High quality vessel imaging

The Dual Source CT represents a unique collaboration between Ireland's leading Radiology and Cardiology teams at the Mater Private. Each scan will be analysed and dual reported by this expert team.

For further information or details on referrals please contact 01 – 885 8172 / 885 8174

*Fastest and most accurate, non-invasive method of detecting coronary artery disease.*



## CHEST PAIN ASSESSMENT UNIT



The Chest Pain Assessment Unit provides access to prompt assessment for patients with suspected cardiac pain. We focus on providing early diagnosis and treatment of patients with cardiac related chest pain and providing reassurance to patients with non-cardiac chest pain.

Patients with cardiac related chest pain are seen immediately.

- Prompt & Comprehensive Assessment of Cardiac Symptoms
- Consultant Cardiologist Review
- Rapid Access to Mater Private Cardiology Services
- Emergency / Urgent Angiography & Angioplasty
- 24 hour Cath lab

### REFERRAL CRITERIA

- Symptomatic – recent onset of chest pain presumed cardiac in origin
- Elderly or Diabetic – new onset exertional dyspnoea suggestive of angina
- Post Cardiac Intervention – new or reoccurring cardiac symptoms
- Known Cardiac Disease – worsening or accelerated angina

### APPOINTMENTS INCLUDE:

- Physical Examination & Clinical History
- ECG
- Echocardiogram
- Stress Test
- Chest Pain Nurse Review
- Consultant Cardiologist Review
- €208 excluding stress test
- €400 including stress test

### REFERRALS...

**SUSPECTED URGENT PATIENT:** contact the Chest Pain Nurse who will review the patients details with you and if necessary will book a same day assessment. Tel: 01 885 8888 bleep 8407 Chest Pain Nurse. Appointments: Mon – Fri 8am – 8pm

**ROUTINE PATIENT:** forward a referral letter or referral form from our website ([www.materprivate.ie](http://www.materprivate.ie)) to the Cardiology booking desk for an assessment within 1 week. Tel: 01-885 8149 Fax: 01 – 885 8150. Appointments: Mon – Fri 8am – 4pm.

## CARDIOLOGY SERVICES

Cardiology services at the Mater Private Hospital are delivered by dedicated team of best in class surgeons, cardiologists, technicians, nurses and staff. With the latest high tech-equipment and novel procedures, a complete range of tests and treatments are available for cardiovascular patients.

### WALK IN SERVICE

- ECG

### PHYSICIAN REFERRALS

- Exercise ECG - Stress Test
- Ambulatory Heart Rhythm - Holter Monitoring
- Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring
- Pace Maker & ICD Follow-up
- Dobutamine Stress Echocardiography
- Carotid Doppler Ultrasound
- Echocardiology
- Tilt Test
- Event Monitoring

### DAY CASE SERVICES

- Angiography
- Cardioversions
- Transoesophageal Echocardiography

### INPATIENT SERVICES

- Coronary Angioplasty
- Coronary Stenting
- Pacemaker Implants
- Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators
- Electrophysiology Studies
- Ablation Therapy
- Percutaneous ASD/PFO Closures

APPOINTMENTS .....	01 – 885 8149
Angiography Appointments .....	01 – 885 8763
Reports .....	01 – 885 8146
Fax .....	01 – 885 8150

Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm  
[cardiology@materprivate.ie](mailto:cardiology@materprivate.ie)

Reports are dispatched by post within 48hrs and can be faxed to the referring doctor on request. Abnormal test results are telephoned to the referring doctor on the same day.

# PERCUTANEOUS ATRIAL VALVE REPLACEMENT

*A new, minimally  
invasive,  
catheter-based  
approach for  
Atrial Valve  
replacement in  
selected patients.*

The Euro Heart Survey has demonstrated a reluctance to refer elderly patients with valvular disease for surgery - up to 33% of severe cases are not considered for surgery due to the perceived risk involved, limiting life expectancy to a few years.

For these patients, there is a new procedure that allows for valve replacement without open heart surgery - **Percutaneous Atrial Valve Replacement**.

The procedure allows for valve replacement without the need for open heart surgery. During the procedure a catheter on which the replacement valve is fixed is guided to the chambers of the heart, via either a Transfemoral or Transapical route.

This technique has been in trial for a number of years (since 2003) and only available since the end of 2007 in a small number of sites, primarily the US. At the end of 2008, the first cases were successfully carried out at the Mater Private by a team led by Prof Declan Sugrue and Mr John Hurley.

A full and up to date  
Consultant Directory is  
included with this  
newsletter

## NEW CONSULTANTS

- **Mr. Sami Awadalla,**  
Paediatrics
- **Dr. Tony Geoghegan,**  
Radiology
- **Dr. Patrick Murray,**  
Nephrology &  
Therapeutics
- **Dr. Liam O'Siorain,**  
Palliative Care
- **Dr. Brion Sweeney,**  
Psychiatry
- **Dr. Abbie Lane,**  
Psychiatry (locum)
- **Dr. Mary Clarke,**  
Psychiatry (locum)

## CARDIOLOGY CONSULTANTS

CONSULTANT	SUB-SPECIALITY	PHONE	FAX
Dr. Gavin Blake	Interventional Cardiology	01 885 8386	01 860 0704
Dr. Pauline Diamond		01 885 8143	01 860 0704
Dr. Joseph Galvin	Cardiac Arrhythmia. Catheter Ablation. Device Therapy. Interventional Cardiology.	01 885 8383	01 860 0704
Dr. Thomas Gumbrielle	Cardiac Electrophysiology. Pacing. Angioplasty.	01 836 0332	01 837 6357
Dr. Ted Keelan	Cardiac Electrophysiology.	01 885 8142	01 860 0704
Dr. Paul Keelan	Interventional Cardiology.	041 980 3182	041 980 5720
Dr. Niall Mahon		01 885 8385	01 860 0704
Dr. Brendan McAdam		01 857 3721	01 857 1130
Dr. Hugh McCann	Stenting	01 885 8381	01 860 0704
Dr. Jim O'Neill	Heart Failure. Echocardiology. Device Therapy. Cardiomyopathy. Cardiac CT.	01 885 8737	01 860 0704
Dr. Richard Sheahan	Palpitations. Supraventricular Tachycardia. Sudden Cardiac Death. ICD. Biventricular Pacemaker Placement. Syncope Evaluation.	01 857 4744	01 837 2503
Prof. Declan Sugrue		01 885 8141	01 860 0704
Dr. Kevin Walsh	Paediatric. Adult Congenital Heart Disease.	01 885 8884	01 4912152

## NO LONGER PRACTISING AT MATER PRIVATE

- **Dr. Ed Carton,**  
Anaesthesia/  
Intensive Care Medicine
- **Prof. Ronan O'Connell,**  
General Surgery/Colorectal
- **Dr Cormac Redahan,**  
Anaesthesia
- **Dr. Karen Ryan,**  
Palliative Care



## WEBSITE

[www.materprivate.ie](http://www.materprivate.ie)

# PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE & THE MATER PRIVATE HOSPITAL

Private Health Insurance has changed significantly in recent years - the structure of plans has become more complex, the offerings more varied and policy holders are switching between providers.

There are a variety of insurance plans available from the different insurance providers which offer access to services at the Mater Private Hospital.

- Wide range of insurance plans offer patient access to the Mater Private.

- Typical 'per diem' shortfalls for the most popular plans\* are in the region of €260 per night up to a maximum of 10 nights.

\*VHI - B, B Options. Hibernian - Level 2. Quinn - Essential Plus, Health manager

## DAYCASE

- 100% cover on majority of insurance plans

At the Admissions Office in the Mater Private, we actively encourage patients to contact us or their insurer in advance of admission to check their level of cover.

These tables give a guide of insurance cover for the main plans as of the end of February 2009. Firstly, some of the terminology explained

- Inpatient - Per Diem [daily rate procedures; differs for a private or semi-private room]
- Inpatient - Fixed Price Procedure (FPP) [rate irrespective of length of stay; private room not guaranteed but if requested, an extra charge is incurred]

Cover is based in on a percentage of cost e.g. a day case procedure with VHI Plan A which costs €100. Insurer covers 60% (€60) patient pays the remaining 40% (€40)

Once a patient knows the procedure they are being admitted for, they can contact our Admissions Office (Tel: 01 885 8785), our Payments Office (Tel: 01 885 8856) or their Insurance Company to check the level of cover and if any payment is required on admission.

VHI	DAY CASE	INPATIENT		CARDIAC
		Per Diem Private - Semi Private	Fixed Price Procedure	Listed Procedures
Plan A	60%	25% - 35%	35%	35%
Plan B	100%	35% - 45%	90%	90%
Plan C	100%	40% - 55%	90%	90%
Plan D	100%	€220* - 100%	100%	100%
Plan E	100%	100%	100%	100%
Plan A Options	60%	25% - 35%	35%	100%
Plan B Options	100%	35% - 45%	90%	100%
Plan C Options	100%	40% - 55%	90%	100%
Forward Plan	100%	50%	100%	100%
Company Plan Plus	€75 per claim	No cover	100%	100%
Company Plan Extra	100%	50%	100%	100%
Company Plan Executive	100%	€220* - 100%	100%	100%
First Plan Plus	50% Cardiac FPP only	No cover	No cover	50%
Family Plan Plus	50% Cardiac FPP only	No cover	No cover	50%

First Plan, Family Plan, Health Steps Silver & Health Steps Gold do not provide cover for the Mater Private Hospital. €220\* charge applies if a patient specifically requests a private room.

HIBERNIAN	DAY CASE	INPATIENT		CARDIAC
		Per Diem Private - Semi Private	Fixed Price Procedure	Listed Procedures
Me Level 1	35%	25% - 35%	35%	35%
I & We Level 1	35%	25% - 35%	35%	35%
Me Level 2	100%	35% - 45%	90%	100%
I & We Level 2	100%	35% - 45%	90%	100%
I & We Level 3	100%	40% - 55%	90%	100%
I & We Level 4	100%	€220* - 100%	100%	100%
I & We Level 5	100%	100%	100%	100%

Day-to-Day plans do not provide cover for the Mater Private Hospital. €220\* charge applies if a patient specifically requests a private room.

QUINN	DAY CASE	INPATIENT		CARDIAC
		Per Diem	Fixed Price Procedure	Listed Procedures
Essential Starter	No cover	No cover		100%
Essential	€487 per day	€487 per day		100%
Essential Plus Starter	No cover	No cover		100%
Essential Plus with Excess	€200 excess per claim	€200 + excess per claim	€243 per day	100%
Essential Plus	100%		€243 per day	100%
Personal Care	No cover	No cover		100%
Family Care	€200 excess per claim	€200 + excess per claim	€263 per day	100%
Health Manager Starter	No cover	No cover		100%
Health Manager	€200 excess per claim	€200 + excess per claim	€243 per day	100%
Health Manager Silver	100%	100% - semi private room €150 per night - private room		100%
Essential Gold	100%	100%		100%
Health Manager Gold	100%	100%		100%