



Prof Nick van der Spek
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Terms and conditions regarding Private Clinic Consultations – valid from 01/10/2021 (Small Print)

Name: **Prof Nick van der Spek, Consultant Paediatrician**
Specialty: Paediatrics (Children's Diseases)
Academic title: Associate Clinical Professor (Hon), RCSI
Special interests: Childhood Disability and Development, including Permanent Childhood Hearing Loss (PCHL)
Autism
Child Protection
Constipation and incontinence
Qualifications: MB BCh (Amsterdam) DCH (Dublin) MRCPCH (UK) FRCP (Edinburgh) FRCPI (Ireland) MSc (UCL London), ADOS, DISCO, Griffith-3, SAFE cert (UCD)

To provide a transparent and sustainable private paediatric service, please take note of the following:

1. To avail of private out and inpatient services provided by Prof Nick van der Spek:
 - a. The **child** requires to:
 - i. Be resident in the geographical area for which Cavan General Hospital is considered their local hospital. Exceptions for children with incontinence or Permanent Childhood Hearing Loss can be considered. Please discuss at time of referral.
 - ii. Have private health insurance cover and commit to using it as detailed in these guidelines.
 - iii. Be referred by their GP or other medical professional with a referral letter.
 - b. The **parent** is asked to sign a Private Paediatric Services Form, acknowledging the above three requirements and the content of these terms and conditions. After the form is signed, the referral is accepted and an appointment booked.
2. When accepted as a private patient I, **Prof Nick van der Spek** shall offer:
 - a. An appointment for you and your child to see me with a general paediatric issue usually on a Tuesday evening between 18:00 and 21:00hr, usually within one week of acceptance of referral depending on demand and circumstances outside my control like the current pandemic restrictions. The waiting time for an appointment for a developmental assessment is longer because it usually requires a special appointment and takes a lot of time. The format of the developmental assessment has become more complex and time consuming following the Covid-19 restrictions imposed on my service.
 - b. To see you personally in a private clinic setting in Cavan General Hospital. This maybe face-to-face or virtually e.g. phone of video. Other staff might be involved - with my supervision - for some procedures like taking blood samples. Blood tests are generally taken during a separate public appointment in PAU and not in the clinic.
 - c. To consult me directly over the phone or by email or SMS, Monday-Friday between 09:00hr and 17:00hr on the numbers below for additional advice. You may be charged for unscheduled telephone consultations. Outside the above times, I cannot guarantee to be available for you, unless I am on call. There is an excellent arrangement to provide urgent care by means of our on-call paediatric service, 24/7 through the Emergency Department where our junior Doctors will see you in first instance with a consultant paediatrician review if deemed necessary. The current fee to the hospital for attending the Emergency Department/Paediatric Assessment Unit without a doctor's referral letter or not having a medical card is €100.
3. To be accepted as a private patient you, as a **parent**, are asked:
 - a. To pay the professional fees for my time spent for a private clinic attendance, currently **€200** for an effective 30 minutes standard (new) private clinic appointment. The "attendance" can be face-to-face, by phone, video, other media (e.g. email or WhatsApp for sending me reports and video recordings or to send you prescriptions and reports etc.) or a combination of these to keep in person contact time to a minimum during the pandemic. For more detailed clinical assessments additional fees apply and are charged per hour. Review appointments are shorter and usually cost **€80**; the attendance definition stated above, applies. A standard once off developmental assessment, including a report, is **€400**. More detailed assessments consisting of separate consultations with individual charges, including a video developmental history (€200), online and paper developmental tools assessments (€100), assessment report (€150-250) and follow up consultation (€80). Fees are to be paid on the day preferably by credit/debit card for a face-to-face consultation. I use PayPal invoice for a virtual private clinic consultation (phone or video). Invoices not paid within two weeks will incur an additional administration fee (€20) for each reminder. A receipt will always be issued which you are recommended to keep as proof of payment and can use for reclaims from your insurance or revenue. If you don't attend a booked appointment and don't cancel before 24hr of the appointment, a fee still applies. There is usually no fee for a brief once of review in my private clinic following a private admission.
 - b. To be aware that your child is a private patient for other services as well. This means that:
 - i. Most investigations arranged (e.g. X-rays, some pathology) from the private clinic or inpatient will have to be paid for too. Usually – but not always e.g. depending on the type of policy, test and hospital - if you have a valid Private Health insurance, the insurance will take care of this either by paying it directly or (partially or fully) reimbursing you. Most blood tests are not charged for separately and are currently paid through public funding.
 - ii. In the event of day-case or overnight admission while attending my private clinic, you are asked for your child to be admitted as a private patient under me and you (through your insurance) are responsible for the costs. The cost includes the price for nursing care/bed (which depending on availability cannot always be guaranteed to be a private/single room) as well as any statutory charge which may vary over time, and fees for consultants and investigations. Please ensure that you tick the box with "Yes" on your insurance form, electing to be private to the consultant and complete and sign the consent form and insurance forms on admission. Please check your policy or talk to your insurance company to ensure your cover is valid. Please find more information on <http://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/3/hospitals/Hospitalcharges.html>
 - iii. In the event of onward referral to another paediatric specialist, e.g. in one of the Children's Hospitals in Dublin, you will be referred as a private patient too, where the above issues also apply. The rule is that "You are private all the way" (except for blood tests as there is no private service, yet).
4. If your child is admitted after having been discharged from my private clinic, your child will be admitted (by default) on whoever is on call at the time publicly. If you then choose to be admitted privately and wish to be under my care, please inform the admissions officer or nurse on the ward as soon as possible that you wish to be a private patient to me. Ensure you use your insurance to cover costs, including my fee. As a private patient you have the option to choose your preferred consultant.
5. In order to keep the outpatient cost to you as low and competitive as possible, I provide most of the service myself; this, as well as my aim to be thorough and keep the waiting list very short, results in substantial work load pressures. In the event you notice that an arrangement we made doesn't appear to occur, I request you to inform me or my secretary immediately.

If you agree to the terms and conditions, I would be delighted to give you a private service. If you can't agree to these terms, I am equally happy to provide you with a public service. My contact details are above.

Prof Nick van der Spek