

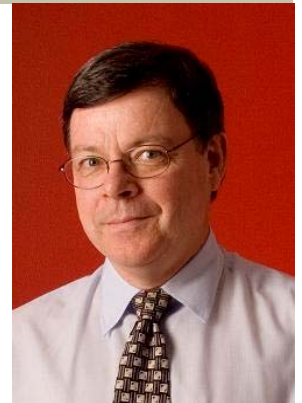
Mersey Messenger

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CEO's Message — "GP Liaison Officer"

Since November 2007 when the Australian Government assumed responsibility for the running of the Mersey Community Hospital, clinical services have continued unaltered at the hospital. In particular medical, surgical, obstetrics and paediatrics have all continued unaltered. In addition, a High Dependency Unit has been opened and the hospital has increased its number of open beds to its highest level for a couple of years. Unfortunately, although services have continued unaltered many of the stories that have appeared in the media have confused members of the public and General Practitioners who refer patients to the hospital.



To help improve the information that is provided to General Practitioners on an ongoing way, a number of new measures will be introduced to ensure that GP's are kept abreast of developments of the hospital.

In particular, the hospital will be establishing in the forthcoming months, a General Practitioner Liaison Officer to ensure that there is effective two way flow of information between the hospital and General Practitioners. To help explain the new initiatives, a special evening dinner meeting has been planned for Wednesday 11 June to which all General Practitioners have been invited. The meeting will also provide GP's with an update on the most recent announcement by the Federal Minister for Health & Aging on the proposed new management arrangements for the MCH.

Dr John Menzies , CEO MCH

IN THE NEXT EDITION

An Update on the recently announced changes to the ongoing management of the Mersey Community Hospital

Radical Andy

Radical Andy is the name of the life like mannequin that helps explain the disease Asthma to young patients. The hospital was recently presented with a donation of the mannequin from the Mersey Community Hospital Support Group.

The Nurse Unit Manager of the Midwifery and Children's Ward indicated that the new unit will be valuable for teaching young asthma inpatients about the disease, within MCH Asthma Clinics and as an educational tool for School Groups visiting the Hospital.

The kit consists of an education booklet, DVD, learning tools including flash cards and various facial expressions for Radical Andy that assist in what a child may be experiencing.



Barbara Salter, RN Midwifery, Paediatrics demonstrates "Radical Andy"

“Together” the Rural Clinical School, Burnie and Mersey Community Hospital provides UTAS Medical with Students “essential” learning skills

Rural Clinical School “Doctors of the Future”

The University of Tasmania's Rural Clinical School, based in Burnie, focuses on medical undergraduate education in rural and remote settings.

In partnership with the Rural Clinical School, The Mersey Community Hospital participates in providing clinical education, which is an essential component of the student's practical and clinical training.

A rural hospital environment is a great opportunity for students to experience and practice medicine in a rural setting which is supported by an experienced team of professional clinicians.

Our clinicians at the Hospital fully support this worthwhile program and find the time spent teaching the students extremely rewarding. Students can relax or study in

comfortable modern facilities dedicated for their needs.



Aimee Semmens is a Year 5 Medical Student that is currently attending practical experience at MCH.

Aimee is attached to the Women's and Children's Unit and is gaining beneficial experience in Obstetric medicine.

Aimee believes her chosen career in medicine will provide an interesting and challenging occupation combined with the knowledge that she will be helping people.



Telemedicine is coming to the Mersey Community Hospital

To ensure that the clinicians, who manage patients within the hospital's High Dependency Unit, have access to additional consultative advice, the hospital is developing a telemedicine link between the High Dependency Unit and the Intensive Care Unit at the North West Regional Hospital. The electronic link will allow consultants of both hospitals to discuss complex patients

and plan suggested courses of investigation and treatment.

It is expected that planning for the new service will be finished by the middle of June and it is hoped that the service can commence early in July. Further information about the service will be provided in a later addition of Mersey Messenger.

Telemedicine Link Between HDU MCH And ICU NWRH

Message from “Mersey Maidens Plus” MCH Relay for Life Team—dedicated to raising funds for cancer research

- ✓ Our Team Leaders for the coming year are Pam Woodfield and Lyn Johnson.
- ✓ Many thanks to those who supported our “Mother's Day” raffle which raised around \$200.00
- ✓ We plan on having a cake stall every 2 months and our next will be on 12th June, 2008 in the Hospital Foyer.
- ✓ New members are most welcome along with family and friends.
- ✓ We thank you for your ongoing support.

Welcome to Dr Alex KAN Director of Anaesthetics

It is with pleasure that I introduce our newly appointed Director of Anaesthetics, Dr Alex Kan.

Dr Kan joins us from Singapore General Hospital, where he held the position of Senior Consultant since 1998.

Dr Kan completed his basic and specialist medical degree in South Africa.

Having working experience in South Africa, Hong Kong, UK, New Zealand, Australia and Singapore, Dr Kan brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our hospital.



We are extremely fortunate to have secured such a highly regarded Specialist and look forward to Dr Kan leading the way for professional excellence in Anaesthetics at MCH.

Being familiar with Tasmania, having worked at the Royal Hobart Hospital as a Staff Specialist Anaesthetist during 1992 - 1996, is what attracted Dr Kan, his wife and four children to our beautiful State.

Proposed Changes to Day Surgery New Reception and Patient Waiting Area

Exciting times at Mersey Community Hospital with renovations and improvements being undertaken throughout the Hospital.

As part of the proposed changes to our Day Surgery Unit, it has been identified that Reception, Patient Waiting Areas (pre and post operation) and a Clinical Assessment Room are long overdue.

These additions will provide patients with a "welcoming and professional environment"

whilst undergoing day surgery at our hospital.

It is envisaged that work will be completed by 30th June 08.

The area pictured below will be totally revamped to include a Day Surgery Unit Reception - STAY TUNED!



Introducing New Employees and Acknowledging Staff Appointments:

8 new Medical Staff appointments confirmed:

1 Emergency Dept, Career Medical Officer

2 Surgical Registrars

1 Medical Registrar

4 Resident Medical Officers

LIBRARY NEWS:

"New Books"

Nurse Managers: A Guide to Practice

edited by Andrew
Crowther

Kindly donated by
MCH Latrobe La-
dies Auxiliary

Assertiveness and the Manager's Job

Annie Phillips

Communication and the Manager's Job

Annie Phillips

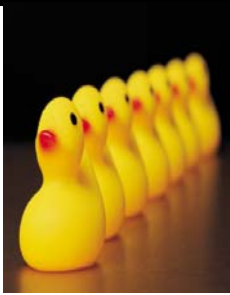
Communicating with Dying People and their Relatives

Jean Lugton

"New Magazines"

Hospital & Aged
Care—May Edition

Pulse+IT
Electronic
Prescribing



- Have you
evidence for:
- √Current policies
 - √Audit on assessment
Compliance?
 - √Audit on completed
assessment compliance?
 - √Pathway compliance
and variance analysis?
 - √Consent audits
compliance?
 - √Evidence of use
of interpreters
for consent?
 - √Audit of consent
matches procedure?

QUALITY HOTLINE:

Julie Ext. 5458
Debbie Ext. 5612
Heather Ext. 5519

NEWSLETTER

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Please email your
Newsletter

Contributions to:

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health.gov.au

Next Edition

Deadline 6 June 08

Many thanks to all
staff who contributed
to this issue



The Australian Council
on Healthcare Standards

ACCREDITATION UPDATE

During the past few weeks clinical areas have been asked to answer a **gap analysis** on the criterion **1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3**. A gap analysis is simply a list of required systems that should be in place and we ask **Line Managers** to answer Yes or Work in Progress (WIP) or N/A. This must be answered up to the Mandatory Achievement (MA).

CLINICAL FUNCTION

1.1.1 The assessment system ensures current and ongoing needs of the consumer/patient are identified.

The assessment system refers to risks such as falls, pressure ulcers, health status, home/carer status, anaesthetic, emergency presentation, nutritional, etc. Policies and guidelines must be in place to cover these areas and assessment tools for the clinician to document.

1.1.2 Care is planned and delivered in partnership with the consumer/patient and when relevant, the carer, to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Care must be planned, documented according to your assessment (1.1.1) and delivered to the patient based on the best available evidence.

The care must be multidisciplinary (medical, nursing, allied health) and the caring environment must include aspects of comfort, respect, dignity and privacy.

1.1.3 Consumers/patients are informed of the consent process, understand and provide consent for their health care.

Consent is a significant aspect of the patient assessment and covers a number of legal requirements.

The consent must not only cover procedures, care and treatment and associated risks/ side effects it must also include alternative options and use of interpreters where required.

Consent must also be obtained for recording or filming. Consent for procedure does not cover photography.

Consent can include financial, procedural, ethics and research.

Julie Duff, Accreditation Co-Ordinator

**Congratulations -
MCH Nursing Staff attend UTAS**

There have been seven staff attending the University of Tasmania for Post Graduate Certificates/Diplomas in Nursing (Acute Care or Teaching).

All seven (Rebekah Edwards, Kerry Hall, Di McArthur, Heather Craigie, Pat Flower, Pauline Radford & Michael Clark) have been enrolled in Project Management and a Research Unit for Term 1.

As part of the Project Management Program, the major assignment for the term was to prepare a poster which illustrated the project proposal. The posters were posted on the Milo site for UTAS and voting for the most fascinating poster began. There were 240 participants (some group posters) resulting in a total of 220 posters in the competition.

Voting was extremely competitive; we extend our congratulations to all our staff for their efforts. A "special mention" to Kerry Hall on her poster "Journey of the Mersey Preceptor-ship" being awarded runner up.

We wish you the very best in the completion of this Certificate.

Kerry Hall's entry—worth taking a look—animated power point presentation—if you would like a closer look please contact Kerry.

