

Oamaru Hospital News



Wishing you all a
very Merry
Christmas
and Prosperous
New Year

2015

Private Ultrasound Service

Private Ultrasound Scanning service is now available at Oamaru Hospital for a variety of US investigations including vascular and MSK.

Please send your referrals to the US Service, Oamaru Hospital, labeled "Private Patient"

We welcome our new Sonographer, Sharyn Woodhouse, who joined the team in September.

Sue Perniskie will manage all private US referrals.

Happy holidays from the team at Oamaru Hospital

Christmas/New Year is just around the corner and the hospital has compiled the following levels of services to be provided during the holiday period.

Inpatient Ward – normal service

Emergency Dept – normal service

Outpatients – reduced service

Maternity – normal service

District – normal service except stat days

Radiology – on call service 25th Dec to 4th Jan

Takaro Lodge – Normal Service

Physiotherapy & Occupational Therapy

- Closed stat days, limited staffing between Christmas/NY

Social Work & Clinical Needs

Assessment Services

- Closed stat days, limited staffing between Christmas/NY

Outpatient Clinics

The target of 4 months waiting time for outpatients First Specialist Assessment (FSA) referrals is now being implemented at Oamaru Hospital, in preparation for this MOH requirement coming into effect in mid 2015. Currently the required timeframe is at 5 months.

This new requirement is proving to be a bit of a challenge and ongoing collaboration with between primary, secondary and tertiary services is essential to make it work for the Oamaru Community.

To keep to the required timeframe, Oamaru Hospital may organize additional clinic sessions locally where possible, or in some cases the DHB may accommodate Oamaru cases. Some referrals may be returned to the GP if appropriate for ongoing management.

The obvious benefit of this system is that once a patient has been accepted into the clinic they are given certainty they will be seen in clinic within four months.

Please visit www.oamaruhospital.co.nz for a current list of local clinics.



New Sonographer Sharyn Woodhouse is settling in well in her new role.



AT&R Services for Older people with multiple or complex health support needs

Oamaru Hospital provides Inpatient, Day Hospital, Outpatient and Domiciliary Assessment, Treatment & Rehabilitation (AT&R) Services:

These are available to older people aged 65 and over or those aged 50-64 with age-related health needs.

Patients may be referred to the Service by needs assessment and service coordination, primary health care team or other appropriately qualified health professional.

Self referral or non-health professional referrals will also be appropriate for some services and in such instances, with the approval of the patients. Receipt and outcome of such referral will be notified to their primary health care provider.

Outpatients & Domiciliary AT&R services include Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Therapy and other allied health services input as required.

AT&R Day Hospital includes nursing and multidisciplinary input and patients are enrolled into the programme for up to 8 weeks depending on their level of need. Referrals may be sent to our AT&R Day Hospital Coordinator Barbara Brown.

Patients may also be referred for AT&R Inpatient admission if necessary to assist elderly patients to regain function and level of independence and to assist the Primary Health Care Team to enable patients to be effectively managed in the community.

Emergency Department

Keeping ED for Emergencies only is the key message Oamaru Hospital would like spread to all referrers and the local population. Over the last several years the department has seen a dramatic increase in the number of presentations and in the 2014 year it reported a total of 7,674 attendances. Approximately 6.2% of these were triage category 5 and should have been treated at primary care level. Emergency Department staff divert appropriate cases to GPs as much as possible and the service will continue to do so to ensure patients are getting medical care at the appropriate level. We thank all referrers for your continuing support of this endeavor.

ED Statistics for the 2013/14 financial year:

Attendances (Maori)	-	1.8% of total
Attendances (Pacific Islanders)	-	2.6%
Attendances (Other)	-	95.6%
Attendances (Children < 14)	-	15.9%
Referred by GP to ED	-	10.1%
Brought in by Ambulance to ED	-	13.2%
Admitted from ED into the Ward	-	21%
Transferred from ED to base hospital	-	3.1%
Triage 1	-	0.1%
Triage 2	-	2.2%
Triage 3	-	21.1%
Triage 4	-	70.4%
Triage 5	-	6.2%



Dr Judith Rikmanspoel getting into the Christmas spirit whilst on duty at the Emergency Department!

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Oamaru Hospital
Here for the
community... close to
home



-o- Joke Corner -o-

What do you call a Santa
who is afraid of Christmas?

Claustrophobic!

Stroke Thrombolysis

Oamaru Hospital commenced local provision of stroke thrombolysis treatment two years ago. This has been a major development for the hospital, enabled by the presence of our local CT Scanner Service and by the willingness, dedication and determination of our staff to make it work for our community.

The hospital now has the ability to respond to this need 24/7.

There is a limited window of 3.5 hours from the time of symptom onset to thrombolysis treatment.

Pulmonary Rehabilitation Programme

Through funding support from the Waitaki District Health Services Trust, the hospital has this year established its very own Pulmonary Rehab Programme. Pulmonary Rehabilitation is a broad programme that helps improve the well-being of people who have chronic (ongoing) breathing problems, including those who have COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), sarcoidosis, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis or cystic fibrosis. It requires ongoing commitment from patients and our team of health care providers including Medical Specialist, Respiratory Nurse, Physiotherapists and other disciplines as may be required eg Occupational Therapists, Dietitian, Social Workers etc. When a patient starts pulmonary rehabilitation, the rehab team will create a plan that is tailored to their abilities and needs. Patients will attend the programme sessions and will be expected to follow their plan, including exercises and lifestyle changes, at home, on an ongoing basis. Pulmonary Rehabilitation can improve patients' ability to function and their quality of life, and may help improve their breathing problems. People with advanced lung disease can still benefit from Pulmonary Rehabilitation.

Our Pulmonary Rehab Team reported the first pilot group completed their six week programme in June 2014. It was very successful with all six participants completing the programme, a big commitment of two hours twice a week.

Staff Christmas Lunch
Friday 19th December 2014 at the
Hospital Meeting Room

On behalf of the Board and
Management of WDHSL we thank
all staff for their contribution and
effort towards another successful
year of health service provision in
Waitaki and beyond.

The success has some measured outcomes
for the 6 participants:

Forced Expiratory Volume (FEV1)	50% improved
Peak Expiratory Flow (PEF)	84% improved
COPD assessment	84% improved
Chronic Respiratory Questionnaire	100% improved
Borg Scale Breathlessness	100% improved

From participants' point of view "Satisfaction Survey":

The course has helped me manage my lung condition more effectively	84% strongly agree	17% agree
Course met my expectations	67% strongly agree	34% agree
I found the course worthwhile	84% strongly agree	17% agree
The exercise programme has been helpful	100% strongly agree	
I would recommend this course to others with lung condition	100% strongly agree	

Eligible patients are currently being selected for the programme via the inpatient service, AT&R Day Hospital, Medical Outpatients and Respiratory Education clinics.

