

Mr Gerard Hayes  
Secretary  
Health Services Union NSW  
Level 2, 109 Pitt Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000  
[secretary@hsu.asn.au](mailto:secretary@hsu.asn.au)

Dear Mr Hayes

**Re: Proposed Service Changes for Central Sterile Services Department, Blacktown Hospital**

I am writing to provide the Health Services Union (HSU) with an update on proposed service changes for the CSSD at Blacktown Hospital.

**Background**

Currently the model of practice for decanting and recanting loan sets between Blacktown Hospital and Mount Druitt hospital's sterilising teams is inconsistent.

At Mount Druitt hospital the sterilising team routinely decant, clean and recant loan sets as part of their usual duties.

At Blacktown hospital the sterilising team do not decant or recant loan sets, however do clean the loan sets as part of their usual duties.

It is proposed that effective 6 April 2021 decanting and recanting of loan sets becomes normal model of practice across sterilising teams working across Blacktown and Mount Druitt hospitals.

In line with this change and to ensure we adequately support business needs we are also proposing a revision of operating times for CSSD.

Previously HSU have disputed Blacktown hospital staff conducting decanting and recanting of loan sets due to staffing concerns. Currently nursing staff decant and recant the loan sets due to this dispute. Current practices cause double handling, room for error and the deployment of nursing staff from nursing duties to carry out the decanting and recanting tasks.

**Staff impact**

The proposed change is a service improvement strategy. BMDH views this change in work practice/workflow as critical to the effective functioning of the service and standardises the model of practice across both hospitals. Recruitment of staff to support changes is nearing completion.

Initial discussions with staff have taken place. I would now like to open up further discussions with the HSU and staff and propose that a meeting be established to discuss this proposal in more detail. Invitations will be sent shortly.

If you have any further questions please direct them to Gaye Wright, HR Director, Blacktown and Mount Druitt hospitals on 0419 568 233 or [gaye.wright@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gaye.wright@health.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**Ned Katrib**  
**General Manager**  
**Blacktown and Mount Druitt Hospitals, WSLHD**

Date: 24/3/2021.