

John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct

Frequently asked questions

About the JHHIP redevelopment

Q: What is the John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct (JHHIP)?

A: The \$835m John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct will deliver enhanced and expanded facilities and provide additional capacity to meet the health needs of the local community.

With a new twelve-storey acute services building as its centerpiece, the redevelopment will see an increase in capacity across critical care, theatres, emergency, maternity, and neonatal intensive care.

As one of the busiest hospitals in the state, this expansion will ensure Newcastle, greater Hunter and northern NSW communities have access to cutting-edge health care now and into the future.

Q: About the temporary transfer of services

A: The John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct (JHHIP) redevelopment is entering a new phase, to connect the existing hospital structure to the new acute services building

These works will be staged over approximately 24 months and will impact different clinical departments and other areas of the hospital.

As part of these works, a small number of patients and staff will be temporarily transferred to other areas, including from John Hunter Hospital to Maitland Hospital. All staffing and service delivery will be managed by John Hunter Hospital.

These wards have been carefully selected based on the type and acuity of patients, as well as their interactions and reliance on other services.

Once construction is complete, these services will be transferred back to John Hunter Hospital and the unused ward will be returned to its previous state.

Q: Which services are impacted by this change and when?

A: In total, 28 beds from Rehab (E1), Rankin Park Centre and G1/General Medicine will relocate to Maitland Hospital from 18 October 2023, for a period of no longer than 24-months

This new unit at Maitland Hospital will be staffed 24/7 as necessary to support sub-acute patients and may meet any of the following criteria:

- Mixed model of rehabilitation and maintenance:
 - Deconditioning rehabilitation
 - Orthopaedic rehabilitation (suitable patients)
 - Orthopaedic geriatric rehabilitation
 - Non-weight bearing orthopaedic fracture patients
 - Long stay general medicine patients (> 14 days)
 - NDIS, long-term patients awaiting approved supports
 - RACF pending patients, ideally from the lower hunter sector catchment

Q: Is this change necessary?

A: Yes, without this temporary transfer, we will be unable to complete the JHHIP redevelopment.

About your employment

Q: Will my manager change?

A: While your individual manager may change, the service will continue to report through to John Hunter Hospital's Medical and Interventional Services.

Q: Will my conditions of employment change?

A: No. All your existing award conditions of employment will remain unchanged. There will be no change to your contracted hours of employment or your leave accruals or entitlements.

Q: What if I live far from Maitland Hospital?

A: We're committed to finding the best solution to suit your individual circumstances and preferences. In the instance that there is not enough staff volunteering to temporarily transfer, some may be redeployed.

Q: What if I don't want to transfer

A: In the first instance, we will seek an expression of interest (EOI) from E1, G1 and Rankin Park North / South. Following which, we will seek a further EOI from any interested staff across John Hunter Hospital. If both EOIs fall short of the required staffing numbers, then we may need to deploy staff.

Q: Is redundancy an option?

A: No. There will be no loss of positions because of this temporary relocation and therefore no redundancies will be required.

Q: If I don't want to go to Maitland Hospital, will you redeploy me to another service?

A: Yes, staff may be redeployed to another clinical specialty across John Hunter Hospital if appropriate.

Q: Will there be any travel allowances offered to staff?

A: All allowances (including travel allowances) will be paid to staff in accordance with the relevant award.

Q: How many staff need to be redeployed?

A: At this point we don't have specific numbers; however, we will require enough staff to cover 28 beds in line with the relevant award requirements. Nursing Hours per Patient Day will remain at 6.0 at Maitland Hospital and appropriate allied health, medical and support services will be provided.

Other

Q: What about parking at Maitland Hospital?

A: Designated staff parking, included an after-hours staff car park is available at Maitland Hospital. This will be covered in detail in the orientation and training package for relocating staff.

Q: Who will orientate me when I'm at Maitland Hospital?

A: An orientation and training package is being developed and all relocating staff will be provided with appropriate training prior to the temporary relocation occurring.

Q: Who are the key contacts?

A: In the first instance contact your current line manager for more information

Q: When will this happen, what is the timeline?

A: The temporary relocation will occur on Wednesday 18 October 2023, with the initial patient cohort being transferred on the same day

Q: How will patient flow work?

A: The 28 beds temporarily relocated to Maitland Hospital will continue to be managed by John Hunter Hospital. Patients identified as suitable for transfer will be referred and reviewed by the one point of referral team and then placed on a waiting list, consistent with existing management of sub-acute/rehabilitation patients at John Hunter Hospital.

Q: Why rehabilitation and not another service?

A: The temporarily relocating beds have been carefully selected based on the type and acuity of patients, as well as the interactions and reliance on other services.