

SWD22/120544

Mr Gerard Hayes
Health Services Union
Level 2, 109 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Hayes

Re: DELIVERY OF STERILE STOCK AT CAMPBELLTOWN HOSPITAL

I write following a teleconference on 9 November 2022 attended by the Health Services Union (HSU) (Andrew Gallagher, Shareeza Mohammed and Joseph Watson), Central Sterilising Services staff (Tracey Worthington, Kim-Marie Currie and Kerry Canham and myself), where issues regarding the delivery of sterile stock by the Central Sterilising staff to the High Volume Surgical Suite (HVSS) within Campbelltown Hospital were discussed.

The HSU wrote to Campbelltown Hospital on 18 August 2022 raising an issue that Sterilisation Technicians were required to transport tugs containing sterilised surgical equipment into theatres across the Hospital. The HSU contended that the service had not previously been provided by sterilisation technicians, invoking the status quo.

The Campbelltown Hospital Stage 2 Redevelopment Project provided an additional theatre complex within the new clinical services building (Building A). The existing theatre complex (Building C) remains operational as a HVSS. Central Sterilising Services Department (CSSD) relocated to a new and expanded area adjacent to the new theatre complex. CSSD services both new and existing theatre complexes. The Redevelopment Project also provided new oral health services and the relocation of oral health services from Rosemeadow Community Centre to the Campbelltown Hospital campus.

Whilst in their former location, sterilisation technicians washed, packed and placed sterilised surgical instruments onto a mobile trolley which is then delivered into the theatre sterile stockroom located adjacent to the department. With the relocation of the department to its new location the transportation of sterile surgical instruments to both theatre complexes remains a core and critical function that supports our emergency and trauma surgical cases.

Campbelltown Hospital acknowledges the increased distance between the new CSSD and the additional time required to transport instruments between locations, taking approximately 10 minutes, 6 to 8 times per day. It is noted additional urgent deliveries of fast tracked instrument trays may be requested.

South Western Sydney Local Health District acknowledges the traditional owners of the land.

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CSSD has established Motor Vehicle Driver (MVD) positions for the primary purpose of collection of used and delivery of sterilised surgical instruments within the SWSLHD notably Bowral, Narellan and Tahmoor (twice per day); Campbelltown Hospital and Ingleburn (four times per day). Prior to the relocation of oral health services to Campbelltown Hospital, drivers delivered sterilised surgical instruments to Rosemeadow however this service is no longer required, as previously noted with the closure of the clinic.

To resolve the issue raised by the HSU, Campbelltown Hospital proposes that operation assistants and CSSD discontinue transportation of sterile surgical instruments to the HVSS and the function be allocated to the CSSD MVD's. The time required to undertake delivery will be offset by time saved by not delivering to the Rosemeadow Community Centre. Emergency requirements can be facilitated by HASA's and or wards persons should MVD's not be available.

Campbelltown Hospital has purchased motorised tugs exclusively for CSSD to assist with the transportation of sterile surgical instruments. A work health and safety risk assessment will be completed and training to operate the tugs provided to MVD's, HASA's and wards persons to ensure a safe work environment.

Thank you again for bringing this issue to our attention and trust our proposal will be an acceptable resolution. Our point of contact is Rod O'Donnell, Director Corporate Services who can be contacted on 0418 222 366 or via email, rodney.odonnell@health.nsw.gov.au.

Regards



Grant Isedale
General Manager
Camden and Campbelltown Hospitals

24 November 2022

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