

HNELHD: John Hunter Hospital Change in Theatres

Dear Member,

The HSU has received correspondence from Hunter New England Local Health District to advise of the intended implementation of an annunciator service in John Hunter Hospital Theatres 1-10. The employer has provided a proposed timeline for implementation.

The HSU is seeking feedback from members within the JHH Operating Suites. Please contact your local HSU Organiser Michael Kearns via email michael.kearns@hsu.asn.au, or the JHH Sub Branch committee, with your concerns. A meeting will be scheduled in the week commencing 29th April with the Organiser and members.

Also, a reminder for Operations Assistant members to undertake the online survey regarding infectious cleaning allowance. The link is below:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OAs-infectious-cleaning>.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD

8th April 2019

Mr Gerard Hayes
Health Services Union NSW
Locked Bag 3
AUSTRALIA SQUARE NSW 1215

Via Email: Gerard.Hayes@hsu.asn.au
CC Michael.Kearns@hsu.asn.au

Re: Changes – Perioperative Services John Hunter Hospital

Dear Mr Hayes,

I write to you in order to advise of changes to the communication tools used within Operating Theatres at John Hunter Hospital. In August last year we trialled the use of the Operations Assistant (OA) annunciator button within the Operating Rooms (OR) 1-10. This trial was extremely well received by staff (OAs, Nursing, Anaesthetists and Surgeons), with feedback that it was a positive change. Following the trial we performed an Optimal OA staffing consultation with all Operating Suite staff, Anaesthetists and Surgeons. This was performed via inviting staff to provide feedback and improvement suggestions via a feedback form, see appendix 1. A common theme throughout that feedback was the use of the annunciator button and how it improved workflow.

Following this consultation of staff, thoughtful consideration regarding the feedback has occurred amongst the Operating Suite Leadership Team with further consultation to HR and the Hospital Executive. The outcome of which is the plan to institute the annunciator button within the 1-10 Operating suite. This will align our practice with the 11-15 operating suite, which has successfully utilised the annunciator button for years.

This improvement represents a change in communication tools only, i.e. a phone versus a button, to communicate an Operating Room's need for assistance from an OA. I understand that OA staffing in this situation is a concern of the Health Services Union (HSU). Staffing is a separate issue to the choice of communication tools and will be addressed in a different process.

Our plan to institute this change will be as below.

- 17/4/19 – Memo to all staff informing them of the change – via email and communication boards
- 10/5/19 – Present change to staff at General staff meeting
- 13 & 14/5/19 – Rounding by Management team in ORs and PACUs discussing change
- 15/5/19 – Implementation date supported by rounding of the Management team in ORs and PACUs discussing change
- 20/5/19 – Auditing of the change process for four weeks by Management team

Human Resources - Greater Metropolitan Health Services
PO Box 21, Waratah NSW 2298
Telephone: (02) 4985 3152
Email: HNELHD-HRMetro@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au



Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District

I welcome any comments or feedback from the Health Services Union regarding the above change. I ask that any comments are received by COB 12/4/19.

I can be contacted on (02) 4921 4880 or via email to Jennifer.Duncan1@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Jennifer Duncan
Service Manager
Surgical Services
John Hunter Hospital

cc Andrew Latter - Operating Theatre Manager, Surgical Services, JHH
Sophie Mason, HR Consultant, GMHS