

HNELHD: Blood Collecting Trolleys WHS Concerns

Dear Member,

Following on from our survey regarding the new blood collecting trolleys, the HSU wrote to NSW Health Pathology management to relate members' WHS concerns. Attached for your reference is their official response to our concerns.

The HSU is now seeking feedback from our members regarding this response. Please send any feedback or concerns you may have to HSU organiser Matt Ramsay via email matthew.ramsay@hsu.asn.au.

In unity,



Gerard Hayes
Secretary, HSU NSW/ACT/QLD

2 August 2019

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Gerard Hayes
Secretary
Health Services Union
NSW Branch
Level 2, 109 Pitt Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

Attention: Mr Matthew Ramsay

Delivered via email: matthew.ramsay@hsu.asn.au

Re: Blood Collection Trolleys

I refer to your email dated 12 July 2019 in which you have raised the matter of the current Blood Collection Trolleys in use at our Hunter based hospitals for the purposes of ward collections.

Consultation Process

Consistent with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 – Section 49 I am able to confirm that the new trolleys were introduced after a period of consultation with staff over an extended period since 2015. The background has included a staged approach of various prototypes being trialled with staff feedback before the introduction into the live working environment. NSWHP- Hunter has documented staff feedback over the period 2017 – 2019 and actions are evidenced with modifications being communicated to the vendor on that basis. I am satisfied that, based on feedback, redesign of the prototype occurred with refinement and risk assessments undertaken to ensure the most appropriate trolley operations and fit for purpose. The trolley has been designed to minimise the rolling weight with a specific wheel/caster, clear working space and sufficient storage a combination that staff have found beneficial.

NSWHP – Hunter is able to demonstrate that we have continued to consider feedback from our staff. Where possible we have undertaken improvements, modifications to the design of the trolley as can be demonstrated by the lengthy consultation process. Many of the staff are in favour of the newer designed trolley compared to the old trollies however there is capacity for staff to choose to use the older style trolley if they wish to.

NSWHP is able to confirm that the collection trolley has been reviewed by the Work Health and Safety Committee; a risk assessment has been completed and training provided to staff in the use of the trolley.

Training and Procedures

There is a step by step guide to using the 'Workstation on Wheels' (WOW) inclusive of a demonstration of the correct set-up of the collection trolley available to staff. Staff are required read this document which outlines processes to be followed in their day to day duties. The document addresses matters regarding the safe use of the trolley for example "when manoeuvring in and out of lifts, it is expected that you will

reverse. Reversing in and out will greatly reduce the chances of wheels being caught on uneven floor surfaces". Many of the concerns listed have been addressed in the NSWHP – WOW document.

NSWHP records confirm that staff have engaged and completed in this process of reading and understanding the document. This information is stored in a Quality System that staff are required to sign-in via a secure password and confirm documents read. Staff are required to complete the Safety DVD regarding the use of Collection Trolleys as part of the orientation process. There have been incidents that NSWHP is aware which have been resolved by re-education of staff in the correct use of the trolley.

Other Matters

NSWHP – Hunter, prior to your correspondence, notes that some staff are trialling pre-printing of collection request forms with the options to use older style collection trolleys during ward collections; the option to use large or small sharp bins; the correct positioning when accessing draws or manoeuvring the trolley. I am satisfied that we are addressing the concerns of staff.

NSWHP – Hunter is able provide further training to staff who may have concerns regarding the use of the collection trolley. On the basis of the above NSWHP – Hunter does not consider it necessary to remove the collection trolley from operation.

I am happy to meet to discuss this matter should you wish to. If so, please telephone me on 49214067 to arrange a time to meet.

Yours faithfully

Jamie Stedman.
Nurse Unit Manager
Blood Collection Service
NSWH Pathology – Hunter.