



Chief Executive Adjunct Prof Jackie Hanson

Dear colleagues,

Earlier this week we briefed Caboolture Hospital staff on the findings and recommendations of the [independent review into paediatric services](#).

The review found there are some areas for improvement. There are some things we've already started working on, such as recruiting clinical leadership positions, a separate dedicated paediatric triage area with paediatric trained nurses, and consumer involvement in co-design planning work to support the establishment of the new \$15 million Paediatric Outpatients Centre.



Thank you to everyone who was involved in the review and in implementing the recommendations.

Koobara Kindy partnership

Metro North Health and Koobara Kindy have officially signed a Letter of Intent to work in partnership to support providing access to healthcare for the children and commitment to delivery health care.

This aligns to the [Metro North Health Equity](#) Priority Area 5: Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities, and organisations to design, deliver, monitor and review health services.



Cyber security training

eHealth Queensland is running a 1-hour virtual training session on phishing and how to stay safe

online. eHealth recently ran a phishing simulation in Metro North which staff may have interacted with or not recognised was a phishing attempt. [Phishing](#) is when scammers try to steal personal and sensitive information. Phishing emails may appear to come from official accounts and the training will help people identify some of the ways to tell if an email is a phishing attempt.

The training will be on Thursday 1 August from 1-2pm. If you would like to attend, [please register online through Microsoft Teams](#).

New Queensland Cancer Strategy

This week Health Minister launched a new [Queensland Cancer Strategy](#), a 10-year strategy to boost cancer services across Queensland. The Queensland Cancer Strategy outlines a roadmap to enhance cancer care pathways by providing improved access to advanced treatments and strengthening cancer services, particularly in regional communities and for our most vulnerable patient cohorts. The announcement includes an investment of more than \$1.73 billion to be invested into cancer care in 2024/25, plus more than \$1.1 billion already committed to deliver the new Queensland Cancer Centre (QCC), which will be located at the Herston Health Precinct. We look forward to working with our partners around the state to achieve more equitable access to compassionate and coordinated cancer care and specialist treatments.

An alternative site for the QCC has been selected on the western side of the campus. This will impact the Centre for Clinical Nursing building (Building 34) and the building occupied by the Hospital Alcohol and Drug Service (HADS) (Building 52). The QCC project team will work closely with staff that work in these buildings to undertake relocation and decant planning, and ensure that the relocation of HADS, its patients and staff, will not impact continuity of service.

Estimates

Yesterday I attended the Parliamentary Estimates committee for health, along with the Minister, Director-General and CEs of other HHSs. There is a lot of work that goes into preparing for Estimates so that I have accurate information at hand to answer a range of questions if asked. Thank you to everyone who provided data and information for briefs.

Kind regards,
Jackie



Chief Medical Officer
Dr Liz Rushbrook

As you may be aware, there is a [supply disruption affecting intravenous fluid products](#) including sodium chloride 0.9% (saline), sodium lactate (Hartmann's) and water for injection. The situation is dynamic and changes frequently depending upon the ability for wholesalers to produce, import and distribute intravenous fluid products, which may result in fluctuating and periodic supply disruptions for alternative products or bag sizes over the coming months.

The situation is being actively managed by multiple stakeholders across Queensland Health including Central Pharmacy, Medication Services Queensland and Patient Safety & Quality. Directors of Pharmacy across Metro North Health are actively managing stock and communicating with relevant units and clinicians where alternative or substitute products may need to be considered.

Supply is expected to be constrained until end of 2024 and clinicians are encouraged to conserve stock where possible.

I write to request clinicians implement the following strategies to conserve IV fluid products:

1. Consider whether there is an adequate indication for IV fluids. Where a patient could meet their fluid intake via the oral route, and there is no requirement for IV medicine administration, consider whether IV fluids need to be prescribed.
2. Prior to prescribing an IV medicine, consider whether the oral or rectal route are available and equally effective.
3. Ensure IV fluid prescriptions are reviewed daily by a prescriber, preferably a senior prescriber (PHO/Reg or Consultant). Do not prescribe IV fluids beyond the end of the next day.
4. Proactively switch from IV to oral therapies when clinically appropriate.
5. Avoid use of IV fluids to Keep Vein Open (KVO) where a flush may be more appropriate.
6. When administering IV medicines, consider whether it can be administered via slow IV push rather than using an IV fluid product. Consult the [Australian Injectables Drug Handbook](#) for advice or locally developed decision support.
7. Avoid pre-emptive (prior to patient admission) priming of IV lines until there is certainty the IV fluid will be used.
8. Use 10 mL or 20 mL ampoules of sodium chloride 0.9% or Water for Injection when premixing medicines for use in a syringe driver, where appropriate.
9. Consult with your ward or team-based pharmacist for advice on the minimum volume which could be used for medicine administration. Pharmacists can assist by annotating prescriptions with this information.

As a result of this constrained fluid supply, there is currently a **critical shortage of IV sodium chloride 0.9% 500mL bags**. These should be reserved for use with arterial lines (as the only bag that can accommodate the external pressure required to maintain arterial line patency) and for administration of high-risk medicines where alternative fluid volumes cannot be used due to setup of medication safety infusion software. In other circumstances, alternative products should be considered. Consult your pharmacist for advice.

Directors of Pharmacy will continue to rationalise stock distribution across medication imprest areas and liaise with relevant clinical staff where product substitution may be required.

Further information is available in the recently released [Patient Safety Alert](#).

Regular updates will be provided via [Chief Medical Officer messages](#) including links to updated Patient Safety Alerts.

Medical Leadership Intensive Program

Metro North is continuing the Medical Leadership Intensive Program, designed to enhance the leadership skills of senior medical staff across the organisation. Final dates for 2024 have been released.

The program supports medical leaders to navigate the challenges of the complex and changing environment within the healthcare environment, and contribute to positive change. The program is available to Clinical Directors and Medical Directors within Metro North, and senior doctors aspiring to those positions. It is delivered in three individual sessions over a 12-week period (day 1 is a whole day, and days 2 and 3 are half days).

Cohort 9	Cohort 10	Cohort 11
Day 1: 12 September 2024	Day 1: 16 October 2024	Coming soon
Day 2: 24 October 2024	Day 2: 7 November 2024	
Day 3: 15 November 2024	Day 3: 20 November 2024	

Express your interest in being a part of the program by following this link: [Expression of Interest Form](#)

To find out more, reach out to MedicalLeadershipIP_MN@health.qld.gov.au



In the past two weeks, 20 clinical and non-clinical staff from across Metro North came together for the "Leading Change through Projects" program. This 2-day experiential program, developed by Clinical Services Stream (CSS) staff in collaboration with Clinical Excellence Queensland, guides participants through each phase of the HELIX Hub's Journey Map.



Leveraging their extensive practical experience in leading and monitoring funded projects, facilitators Louise D'Allura and Sharon Hobby support participants through a deep dive into their projects. Assessing the alignment of intended outcomes, exploring logic models, planning stakeholder engagement, reviewing intervention design, and preparing for evaluation.

This program equips participants with a robust foundation to lead any type of project in Metro North. Find out more or register for the next [Leading Change through Projects workshop](#).



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We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which our facilities are built. We also pay respect and acknowledge Elders past, present and the future.



Queensland Government



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