

09 August 2023

Mr Gerard Hayes
Locked Bag 3
AUSTRALIA SQUARE 1215

Send via email secretary@hsu.asn.au

Dear Mr Hayes,

RE: Introduction of the annunciator call system in Operating Theatres 1-10, John Hunter Hospital

I write to advise you of a proposal to standardise a work process involving the communication tools used to alert Operations Assistants (OA) when they are required within the Operating Suite at the John Hunter Hospital.

At present, there are two different methods utilised to alert OAs when they are needed. In Operating Theatre Suites 1-10, OAs are alerted by phone. In Operating Theatre Suites 11-15 an annunciator call system is utilised. It is our intention to standardise this method and adopt the annunciator call system across all theatres at the John Hunter Hospital.

A change to this workflow process has been proposed in response to requests from staff. The matter has been discussed with members of the OA/ Nursing Working Party over the last four months with the change supported by the majority within that Working Party. Adopting this new practice for Theatres 1-10 would help facilitate a smooth transition to the Acute Services building as part of the John Hunter Health & Innovation Precinct development due for completion in 2025 which will utilise a call system.

In the interest of patient safety, changing the way in which OA's are alerted in theatres 1-10 will streamline processes, reduce confusion and improve communication. The annunciator call system is currently utilised in Theatres 11-15. Our OA's are required and rostered to work across all theatres (1-15) and are familiar with the use of the annunciator call system.

We will be commencing a short-term trial from Monday 21st August 2023. The trial will be run for a period of four weeks to ensure that this change to our current process meets expectations. During this trial period, staff will be encouraged to provide feedback and highlight any concerns. These will be addressed prior to permanently adopting the use of annunciators across all theatres (1-15) at John Hunter Hospital.

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Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District

If you require further clarification of the details outlined here, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 4921 3569 or at Melissa.Harvey@health.nsw.gov.au or contact Sherree McClory, Human Resources Consultant on (02) 4985 3492 or Sherree.McClory@health.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Melissa Harvey
Facility Services Manager – John Hunter Hospital
Hunter New England Local Health District

cc. Rima Chaurasia – Nurse Manager, JHH Operating Theatres, Surgical Services
cc. Laycombe Reilly – OA & Wardsperson Senior Manager
cc. Sherree McClory – HR Consultant - GMHS