

Mr Gerard Hayes
Secretary
Health services Union (HSU)

info@hsu.asn.au

Central Sterilisation Service Department Services | Lithgow and Blue Mountains Hospitals

Dear Mr Hayes

I am writing to advise you of a decision to decommission Central Sterilisation Service Department (CSSD) Services at Lithgow and Blue Mountains Hospitals arising from the implementation of Australian Standard Reprocessing of Reusable Medical Devices in Health Service Organisations (AS 5639:2023).

AS/NZS 4187 Reprocessing of Reusable Medical Devices in Health Service Organisations

AS/NZS 4187 imposes new requirements including:

- Segregation of clean and dirty workflows;
- Storage areas for sterile stock, including plans to assess and manage the risk of humidity and temperature of stored sterile stock – and the risk of co-location of sterile and non-sterile stock in a storage area;
- Replacement of cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising equipment;
- Monitoring requirements for water quality, to ensure that the water used for cleaning and sterilisation is free of endotoxins and other microbes; and
- A traceability process for critical and semi-critical equipment, instruments and devices.

Compliance with AS 5639:2023 is required for the District to continue to conduct surgery.

Unfortunately, due to the age of the buildings, the risk of roof membrane failures, and the physical footprint of the existing services at CSSDs at Lithgow and Blue Mountains Hospitals, it is not feasible to upgrade these facilities.

Transfer of CSSD Services to Nepean Hospital

The transfer of CSSD services to Nepean Hospital will commence in September 2024, with a trial period to start in August 2024. Endoscopy reprocessing will remain at each location and is unaffected.

Capital works will be undertaken at each site to ensure compliance with AS 5639:2023 and it is anticipated that this work will commence in July 2024.

There are minimal changes required as part of this transition, and no employee will be affected by the proposed changes. Cleaning, packing and receiving duties for current CSSD staff will remain at each location.

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Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District



These arrangements are primarily administrative in nature and will not impact on front line clinical staff or alter the services currently provided to patients.

Staff members will be briefed in person on the proposed changes.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact David Holmes, Manager Industrial/Employee Relations at David.Holmes@health.nsw.gov.au or on (02) 4734 1510.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Quested".

Adam Quested
Interim Director People and Culture
Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District

Date: 16 May 2024