

General Medicine

The departments and services listed below are all part of the Department of General Medicine.

- Alcohol & Drug Service
- Cardiology – Coronary Care Unit
- Clinical Toxicology
- Consultation Liaison Psychiatry
- ECG Department
- Emergency Department
- Hunter Drug Information Service
- Internal/General Medicine
- Mater Acute Community Care
- Mater Stroke & Enablement Unit

Our department has approximately 5,400 admissions annually and there are approximately 25,000 patients admitted to the Emergency Department each year. We continue to work toward improving patient care and continue our own professional development and expertise giving us a reputation for excellence and innovation in our health care delivery.

General Internal Medicine

This is the largest single unit within the Department of Medicine and its senior medical staff are all General Physicians. A General Physician is a specialist whose training and expertise enables them to practice broadly across internal medicine specific to adult patients.

At Calvary Mater Newcastle, all General Physicians also have expertise in a sub specialty area. The Department employs a discharge facilitator who assists with the assessment of patients for return to home or placement into aged care facilities or hostel care. Referral to this department is via the inpatient medical teams.

Our visiting hours are:

General wards - 11am - 1pm and 3pm - 8pm

Rest period is between 1pm and 3pm.

Telephone - 4014 3496/7

The Coronary Care Unit has different times for visiting these are:

10am to 12noon and 3pm to 8pm

Outpatient services are available at regular clinics within the Medical Centre, which is located in the new Clinical Services building in Platt Street, Waratah. Patients can be referred from other teams at the Mater; GP's and Visiting Medical Officers.

Cardiology - The Coronary Care Unit

The ECG Department is managed by a team of Cardiologists, Medical Officers and Registered Nurses

The Coronary Care Unit provides care for patients who have experienced a heart attack or problems with their heart and provide specialty care by monitoring and treatment of symptoms and underlying conditions associated with heart disease. The unit also provides patients with education about their specific condition and referral to local cardiac rehabilitation services. We are also involved in ongoing research trials and community projects. Patients are admitted to the Coronary Care Unit via the Mater Emergency Department. Referrals are also received from other hospital in the area.

Telephone - 4014 3471

ECG Department

The ECG Department is managed by the Director of Cardiology and a team of technicians and can provide the following tests for patients:

- Electro Cardiograph Testing (ECG's)
- Exercise Stress Testing (EST)

General Medicine

The department also provides an outpatient clinic for patients who have had a pacemaker inserted at the Mater.

The ECG department hours are:

Monday to Friday 8.30am – 1.45pm

Appointments and bookings can be made by calling 4014 4644

Clinical Toxicology & Pharmacology

The Department of Clinical Toxicology & Pharmacology is responsible for the inpatient management of patients who come to the hospital with poisoning (including self-poisoning, recreational, iatrogenic, accidental or occupational poisoning) or envenomation (venomous bites) throughout the Hunter New England Health Area. Also the NSW Health Department has a mandate to promote the rational use of drug therapy throughout the Area. Thus the Hunter Drug Information Service and an outpatient service for consultations in Clinical Pharmacology or Toxicology are also available through the Department.

We provide an inpatient management service for toxicology patients, the Hunter Area Toxicology Service, and provide a consultative service for therapeutic related problems. We also act as an educational resource for the Hunter and New England Area Health Service

Staff Members

- Director
- Staff Specialist
- University staff
- Senior Registrar/Fellow
- Pharmacists (Hunter Drug Information Service)

How to get a referral

It is the Department's policy to formally admit and ensure adequate psychiatric and drug and alcohol counselling for all patients with deliberate self poisoning or self-harm. Patients can present directly to the Calvary Mater Newcastle (acute toxicology), or be transferred from other area hospitals or referred by clinicians within the Hunter New England Area Health Service or from a General Practitioner.

Contact can be made by calling the Department Secretary - 4921 1283.

Hunter Drug Information Service

WHO are we?

The Hunter Drug Information Service was established in 1979 and is managed by a team of experienced pharmacists who are on call five days per week from 8.30am to 5pm.

WHAT do we do?

Provide drug information for patient related enquiries within the Hunter New England Area Health Service, including advice regarding adverse drug reactions, drug interactions, drugs in pregnancy/lactation, formulation, availability, product information, herbal medicines.

HOW do we do it?

We assess calls as soon as possible, some enquiries can be answered immediately, others take longer. We use various databases including Medline, Embase, IDIS, Drugdex, Poisindex; current texts; biomedical journals etc...

Contact us

Telephone (02) 4921 1278

Fax: 4921 1372

E-mail: h.dis@mater.health.nsw.gov.au