

10 July 2018

Nationwide nursing strike by NZNO members

Waitemata District Health Board (DHB) has contingency plans in place to maintain essential and emergency care during the 24-hour nationwide strike by New Zealand Nurses' Organisation (NZNO) members starting at 7am Thursday 12 July.

While the majority of the DHB's nursing workforce is expected to strike, a roster of core nursing staff, doctors, allied health teams, clinical support staff, accredited volunteers and family members will maintain services to patients for the duration of the strike.

Non-urgent surgeries, procedures and outpatient clinics that would normally have taken place during the strike will be rescheduled as soon as possible. Patients are asked to attend their scheduled appointments unless they are contacted by Waitemata DHB to reschedule.

"We have tried our very best to minimise impacts on members of the public through effective planning," said Director of Hospital Services Cath Cronin.

"We we respect the right of our staff to participate in industrial action. Our primary concern is around maintaining patient safety and we have put arrangements in place to ensure those who need to be in hospital during the 24-hour strike period will receive the best care possible.

"As part of that, we are reaching out to the families of those who will be inpatients in our hospitals during the strike to register to assist in meeting patients' basic, non-clinical needs, such as assisting with meals.

"We are also asking families to spread their visiting times out during the strike to assist us to maintain basic care and we are very grateful for their assistance."

People with relatively minor health concerns are strongly encouraged to avoid hospital emergency departments during the strike period in order for available staff to prioritise the care of the seriously ill.

For non-urgent needs, as always, people should contact their family doctor or pharmacy first or Healthline on 0800 611 116.

For more urgent health concerns when it's not possible to get a family doctor appointment, such as after-hours, contact the nearest accident and medical clinic.

People requiring specialised medical care for urgent and serious health concerns should present to their local emergency department.

Contact: Waitemata DHB Media Line – (09) 487 1276