

12 July 2018

**Great teamwork sees Waitemata DHB hospitals managing well during nursing strike**

Good contingency planning and great teamwork has seen North Shore Hospital and Waitakere Hospital functioning to a high standard during the national nursing strike.

Although both hospitals have high winter occupancy levels, clinical and non-clinical staff from across the DHB have pulled together along with around 150 volunteers to ensure patients receive the best care possible.

“Our key priority, as always, is maintaining patient safety and this has been well-managed,” said Director of Hospital Services Cath Cronin.

“While it isn’t possible to replace the level of care provided by our nursing staff, our contingency plans are ensuring that those people who are in our care are being looked after.

“We are particularly grateful for assistance coming from family members of our patients – they are doing a great job of helping clinical staff keep an eye on patients and assisting with meals and other non-clinical tasks.”

The public is reminded to only come to our emergency departments if in need of emergency care. Family doctors or local pharmacies should be the first port of call for non-emergency care.

ENDS

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