

Media statement

RMO strike

15/4/2019

Wairarapa DHB is preparing hospital services for the proposed junior doctors' strike later this month.

The Resident Doctor's Association (RDA) has notified the DHB that junior doctors around the country will strike from 29th April – 3 May.

There are 14 Resident Medical Officers (RMO) at Wairarapa Hospital and all have indicated they will strike if agreement is not reached in the bargaining negotiations.

Four strikes have already taken place this year but this one differs in that it is a five day stop work, whereas the January and February strikes were only for 48 hours.

“Our primary consideration is patient safety, and we are very busy right now ensuring that all essential and emergency services will continue to be provided while we manage through the strike.”

“We are currently assessing our staffing and patient needs, and are cancelling many medical clinics, appointments and elective surgical procedures. We need to ensure the number of patients we have in the hospital when the strike begins is as low as possible.”

Wairarapa people are asked to be aware of the pressure on the hospital during the course of the strike and the days leading up to it, and advised to go to their family doctor or health professional first wherever possible and keep the emergency department free for critical illness and injury emergencies.

“However, people with urgent care needs should call 111 or come to ED. Anyone unsure about whether they need emergency care should phone their medical centre or call Healthline on 0800 611 116.”

“We are working hard to try and minimize the inconvenience for our patients, but we have had to reschedule a lot of appointments. We do apologize to those affected by this strike action.”

“The RMOs are a highly valued, integral part of our hospital team, and we continue to look forward to an agreement being reached.”

“Wairarapa DHB wishes to thank the small and dedicated team working hard on contingency planning for the strike during this Easter holiday period.”

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For more information:

Anna Cardno | Communications Manager Wairarapa DHB

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Phone +64 (06) 9469 800 x 5883

Direct Dial +64 (06) 9469 883 Mobile: 027 205 24 22

anna.cardno@wairarapa.dhb.org.nz

www.wairarapa.dhb.org.nz