

## Media release

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### **Hospital desperately needs crutches returned**

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Wairarapa Hospital is wanting to reclaim any crutches that people may have finished with but not yet returned.

Charge Nurse Manager, Kathryn Wadsworth, says stocks are very low. “We are down to our last few pairs of crutches in ED and we are continually having to order in more, at high cost, when we know there must be dozens of pairs no longer needed out there in the community.”

Wairarapa District Health Board is asking people to look at home for crutches they may have forgotten about. These can be returned, no questions asked, to the hospital’s main reception. South Wairarapa residents can drop crutches off at their local medical centres.

“Summer and the festive season saw lots of injuries through the department,” says Kathryn. “People need crutches when they have an acute injury, and we tend to go through them en masse. People don’t mean to hang onto them but know there are plenty out there, forgotten and unused.”

“We really appreciate people returning their crutches promptly when they have finished with them, because there is always a demand.”

Any other hospital equipment, such as splints, bathroom equipment and walking frames, can also be returned.

**Ends.**

#### **For more information:**

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