

Media release
23 August 2019

Wairarapa Hospital's medical imaging (radiography) staff plan to strike for 24 hours on Monday 26th August

Notice has been received for a 24 hour strike by Medical Imaging Technologists (MITs) throughout the country. Negotiations are continuing over the weekend that may avert the strike action but, if unsuccessful, the strike will take place from 0700 Monday 26th August and conclude at 0700 on Tuesday 27th August. It affects all DHBs across New Zealand.

The strike action does not affect ultrasound services, which will continue as usual.

Wairarapa District Health Board has detailed plans in place to ensure it can continue to provide the best possible care for the Wairarapa community during the strike. Urgent need will be met during the strike period.

A small number of imaging staff will be working to provide a limited service for urgent patients during this time.

For the 24 hours of the strike, X-rays for acute emergency and ward inpatients and acute GP referrals will be available.

"We are rostering the available staff carefully to ensure acute needs can be met over the 24 hour strike period." Chief Medical Officer, Shawn Sturland explained.

"This includes working with the union to coordinate on call cover for urgent CT scanning as per the life preserving services requirements."

"Some clinics will continue to be held, however the limited staff we will have available on strike day has required non-acute outpatient appointments to be rescheduled," Shawn said.

Communications Manager, Anna Cardno said that some elective surgery requiring imaging that was booked over the strike period has also been rescheduled.

"We have been communicating with medical centres and with Wellington Free Ambulance, and will be working hard to minimise any impact on our patients while we wait for a successful resolution," she said.

"If negotiations are successful over the weekend, we'll be aiming for business as usual on Monday."

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