

Media release

Hospital in code red – surgeries rescheduled

22 October 2019

Wairarapa hospital is in code red, with all its beds full.

Escalating illness and injury has increased demand on the hospital, stretching capacity to its limits. Management has been forced to cancel some elective surgeries in order to treat acute patients.

“There is nothing in particular, no widespread illness or multiple trauma presentations that have caused the increased demand,” said Executive Leader, Kieran McCann.

“Unfortunately an influx of urgent need has meant we have to reorganise some of our scheduled routine surgeries.

“In the interests of patient safety and best practice, we have to prioritise the most urgent cases. Unfortunately, the rescheduling required to do so can seriously inconvenience some of our patients that have been waiting for surgical procedures by appointment.

“Some of our patients that were expecting surgery today have had to be delayed, and I am aware that some of these people have already been rescheduled previously,” McCann said.

“That is understandably a considerable inconvenience, for which we apologise.

“We know that people make significant plans around scheduled surgery, and we do not cancel theatre bookings unless we absolutely have to.

“It is our last resort,” McCann said. “But sometimes, when we hit code red demand, we don’t have a choice. We have to put people off in order to serve critical need.”

ENDS

For more information:

Anna Cardno | Communications Manager Wairarapa DHB

Mobile: 027 205 24 22

anna.cardno@wairarapa.dhb.org.nz

Additional information:

Wairarapa Hospital has 74 inpatient beds.

An additional 24 beds are provided in the emergency department, the Day Procedure Unit and in Selena Sutherland Hospital.

These beds are not usually used for inpatient care, but when the hospital has exceeded capacity, they can be allocated in order to cope with the Code Red demand.