Your heart will be in good hands at Sunshine Coast University Hospital

With services at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) set to commence in March 2017, staff have been making their final preparations to move into the new $1.8B facility.

The cardiology department is one of the many teams that have planned their move to the finest detail, with the department’s inpatient services moving from Nambour General Hospital to SCUH.

How do you move acute patients to a new facility for treatment? With great care, with a focus on patient comfort, and with a detailed plan for a staged move to ensure patient safety at all times, according to Director of Cardiology Dr Rohan Poulter.

“A safe move is critical for acute care. We need a window of time where we can safely test and ensure that all the equipment at the new hospital is functional, while we still have the back up of Nambour General Hospital with its known and proven service and systems in place to continue to run some of our emergency work,” Dr Poulter said.

SCUH will operate as the central hub for Integrated Cardiac Services, with supporting units at Nambour General Hospital, Gympie Hospital, Maleny Soldiers Memorial Hospital and at community based centres.

The Coronary Care Unit (CCU) at SCUH will initially commence with eight beds, with a staged expansion to 10 then ultimately 14 beds. There will be 20 ward beds for cardiology.

There will be a Critical Investigation Unit (CIU), Cardiac Catheter Laboratory (CCL), a chest pain assessment service within the Emergency Department, and an Ambulatory Care Centre for outpatient cardiac patients.

“For the first time combined with cardiology in the CIU we’ll also provide respiratory testing, vascular testing and neurology testing – a whole new expansion,” Dr Poulter said.

“We’re also excited to be expanding from the two cardiac catheter labs we have at Nambour to three for cardiology at SCUH – including two dedicated to coronary and structural work, and one dedicated for electrophysiology work. We’ll also have access to an additional lab if we need it for pacemakers and defibrillators, so that’s a significant capacity increase for cath lab services.”

Dr Poulter started at Nambour General Hospital in October 2012, with the opening of the Cardiac Catheter Laboratory (CCL), which was the first step in the development of the cardiac program, and a significant expansion of service locally for the coast. The service was deliberately planned to start at Nambour prior to moving it to SCUH.
“I’ve always been interested in the people component of medicine; the physiology of the heart is fascinating!” he said.

“There is currently more demand at Nambour General Hospital than we can physically provide; my team and I are excited to be able to offer so much more with the expanded services at SCUH.”

**Plan for staged move to the SCUH Integrated Cardiac Service:**

1. When acute services first commence at SCUH, planned for the week beginning 27 March 2017, the cardiology team will see outpatients in the new testing environment at SCUH, in both the Cardiac Catheter Laboratory (CCL) and in the Cardiac Investigation Unit (CIU).
2. The team will start to accept acute admissions into the SCUH Coronary Care Unit while the same services are still open and operating at Nambour General Hospital. The admissions at Nambour will be gradually scaled down, and with the average length of stay for cardiac patients between two and three days, the team will slowly reduce the number of cardiology beds at Nambour over the course of several days and transition service over to SCUH.
3. Emergency cardiology services will still be offered at Nambour until the team is certain they have a safe system of care in place at SCUH, and then emergency services will be transitioned to SCUH.

With patient and staff safety the number one priority, the move will be a historical milestone for the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS), allowing staff to continue to provide exceptional care for our community well into the future.

**Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) – planned commencement of services:**

- Pathology, radiology, pharmacy, and back of house (kitchen, cleaning, logistics) staff commence final preparations for patient care from the week beginning 6 March 2017
- Outpatient appointments commence in the week beginning 21 March 2017
- Inpatient services, the emergency department, operating theatres and maternity services commence progressively in the week beginning 27 March 2017
- Elective surgery commences in the week beginning 4 April 2017
- The final service commencement schedule will be confirmed by the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Board on 28 February 2017, following a final recommendation by the Clinical Readiness Advisory Group and the Independent Commissioning Advisor.


ENDS

**Media contact:** Kirsty Olsen | 5202 0086 | 0408 713 747

Follow us! [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)