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Patient passport enhances health outcomes at Gympie Hospital

A new health passport is delivering a seamless hospital journey for patients at Gympie Hospital.

Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service (SCHHS) has launched a new initiative at Gympie Hospital to improve the safe handover of information and transfer of patients from the emergency department to the receiving ward.

Acting Director of Gympie Hospital, Nick Jones said the Passport to Patient Flow was an innovative system using a passport document that is completed by healthcare staff and, like a regular passport, is kept with the patient.

“The concept of the passport is based on a ‘safe to send and safe to receive’ model and ensures that the patient does not leave the emergency department with incomplete or missing documents and information related to their care,” Mr Jones said.

“This ensures they receive the highest standard of planned, safe care as all members of the health care team are aware of the patient, their condition and any ongoing needs they require.

“It means our patients receive seamless care throughout their hospital journey and reduces the potential risk associated with a lack of information shared between health care staff.

“We developed the passport to help ensure our patients receive the best possible care by documenting our patients’ journey from the emergency department, through to the ward,” Mr Jones said.

“In the passport, our patients will have all the required paperwork, a written plan of care and required medications prescribed.

“The patient’s details will have been communicated to the accepting ward nurse and everyone involved in that patient’s care will know exactly what the plan of care is,” he said.

The initiative is part of the evolving patient safety model for Gympie Hospital.

After trialling the passport system at Gympie Hospital, the health service will consider the results and look to using the Passport to Patient Flow across all facilities.

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