Memorandum of Understanding

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

The Canberra Hospital and Health Services

and

Southern New South Wales Local Health District

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets out the terms for an arrangement between Southern New South Wales Local Health District and The Canberra Hospital and Health Services for the provision of timely access to acute intervention for people presenting with suspected ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) in Southern NSW Local Health District (LHD).

Background

NSW Health has introduced a state-wide cardiac reperfusion strategy which provides all patients with suspected Acute Coronary Syndrome, regardless of their geographical location or presentation path, early access to specialist medical advice and appropriate treatment.

Research demonstrates there is marked improvement in patient outcomes for STEMI patients when treatment protocols are developed and integrated across hospitals with percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) and those without PCI. Through collaboration, The Canberra Hospital, Southern NSW LHD and the Ambulance Service of NSW (ASNSW) have developed a regional STEMI pathway which provides patients throughout the region with access to timely appropriate treatment.

Purpose

This MOU recognises the collaborative work between agencies to facilitate access to The Canberra Hospital for acute percutaneous coronary intervention. It also recognises the importance of timely transfer of NSW STEMI patients back to Southern NSW LHD 24 hours post procedure for the remainder of their care.

The above goals will be accomplished by undertaking the following activities:

- The Canberra Hospital will provide a STEMI ECG Reading Service for Southern NSW LHD (including Ambulance Service NSW) with a streamlined STEMI management pathway which includes timely access to PCI where clinically appropriate.
- Southern NSW LHD will facilitate timely transfers of STEMI patients back to the district 24 hours after the patient has received their specialist treatment. Goulburn Base Hospital and Bega District Hospital (until early March 2016, then South East Regional Hospital) are identified as the hospitals in the region that are able to provide the appropriate level of service for this group of patients during their sub-acute phase.

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Patients should primarily be sent to these hospitals with the exception of patients from Queanbeyan.

 The level of care provided by Southern NSW LHD Patient Transport Vehicles (PTV) is appropriate to transfer patients these patients between The Canberra Hospital and Goulburn Base Hospital or Bega District Hospital/South East Regional Hospital. However, an ambulance should be used where clinically appropriate. Priority for the use of patient transport vehicles for transfer of STEMI patients should be supported.

Reporting

Stakeholders will hold a regular meeting to discuss any identified issues with transmissions, response times and evaluate the effectiveness of patient access and return to NSW.

Funding

This MOU is not a commitment of funds.

Duration

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of the Deputy-Director General of The Canberra Hospital and Health Services and the Chief Executive of Southern NSW LHD.

This MOU shall become effective from the 15th February 2016 with signatures by both the above authorised officials and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent.

Contact Information

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Acting Chief Executive Southern NSW LHD