

# Aide-Mémoire

## Cath lab risks at Capital Coast / Hutt Valley

<b>Due to MO:</b>	24 February 2025	<b>Reference</b>	HNZ00080042
<b>To:</b>	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
<b>From:</b>	Robyn Shearer, Deputy Chief Executive Central Region		
<b>Copy to:</b>	n/a		
<b>Security level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Priority</b>	Urgent
<b>Consulted</b>	n/a		

### Contact for further discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Phone	1st contact
Jamie Duncan	Group Director Operations, Capital Coast and Hutt Valley	s 9(2)(a)	x
Robyn Shearer	Deputy Chief Executive, Central Te Ikaroa Region		

## Purpose

1. On 12 December 2024 the former Minister of Health Hon Dr Shane Reti received an aide memoire on clinical and operational issues at Wellington Hospital. This was in relation to the quality of its catheterisation lab equipment, plans for its replacement, and how any impacts on patients and service delivery were being managed (HNZ00075031 refers).
2. This paper provides an update on progress to replace equipment and steps taken to support staff and keep patients informed as necessary.
3. It also outlines the emerging access concerns of the Interventional Radiologists and the steps that are being taken to seek updated advice to support this while cardiologists are sharing their hybrid labs to ensure cardiology needs are met.

## Background

4. Wellington Regional Hospital has three catheterisation laboratories for cardiovascular procedures which receive patients from around New Zealand, but primarily from the upper South Island and Central Region.
5. The catheterisation laboratory rooms (cath labs) allow visualisation of the heart during procedures, such as placing stents in arteries that supply blood to the heart.
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12. As is normal, if patients are concerned about any aspect of a procedure, there is a designated email address and phone number they can use to receive a call back from the cardiology team.

## Cardiology Current Situation

12. The first cath lab is currently being refurbished and will be operational again in August/September 2025.
13. The remaining two labs will then be refurbished starting in December 2025.
14. A wet lease is being finalised for Capital Coast Hutt Valley clinicians to use Wakefield Hospital's two new cath labs while theirs are being refurbished. This arrangement is expected to start in April 2025, when the new Wakefield labs will be finished and available.
15. This arrangement will be flexible to meet demand and last for as long as Capital Coast needs the capacity. It will also allow Capital Coast to refurbish their remaining two labs in parallel and have all their labs fully available by the end of 2026.

## Interventional Radiology Current Situation

16. Interventional Radiologists have ongoing concerns that during the refurbishment period access to lab space has been prioritised for cardiology, resulting in ongoing limited access for them to treat non cardiology patients during normal hours, and requiring them to work during out of hours periods.
17. Interventional Radiologists concerns around access to labs has resulted in them reducing on call cover above their agreed frequency of a call ratio of 1:5 (a 1:5 ratio is required to fully cover the on-call roster).
18. Capital Coast Hutt Valley leadership met with their Interventional Radiologists on 17 February with a plan to manage equitable lab access across specialties both now and into the future, and for support for training and recruitment, especially for more nurses.
19. All parties note the importance of starting the refurbishment and securing Wakefield access to ensure confidence in the future state.

## Next steps

20. The Capital Coast Hutt Valley Chief Medical Officer and Health NZ's Chief Medical Officer are in discussions with the local Cardiologists and Interventional Radiologists to ensure their concerns are addressed and that they can resume normal rostering as quickly as possible.
21. We will provide a further update to your office following the sourcing of new advice from senior clinical and legal advisors and/or if there is any modification of the consent forms.