



“We can’t go over it, we can’t go under it, Oh no! We have to go through it!”

These words are certainly true of our current situation as we actively work with and through the changing situation of COVID19. The senior leadership group along with our colleagues at Calvary Adelaide, Central Districts and the National office have all been working tirelessly so that we are well placed to ensure staff and patient safety during this current pandemic. Things are rapidly changing in this space as we learn from the overseas experience.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone for being so adaptive and agile in responding to the multiple changes that have had to be put in place in response to the COVID19 management. I am sure they are not over just yet, but I am confident staff will be able to continue to adapt!

We have had a focus on reducing the risk of COVID19 infected persons entering Calvary North Adelaide through;

- Patient and visitor screening upon entry
- A no visitor policy which came into effect midnight on 27/3/2020, along with temperature screening of patients and visitors.
- Application of hand sanitizer on entry to the site
- Strategies to enable social distancing such as chair removal and spacing, marks on the floor, and the use of bollard distance markers.
- Ceasing elective surgery for non-urgent category 2 & 3 patients
- Removal of newspaper delivery to patients
- Enhanced cleaning
- Additional patient and visitor signage throughout the hospital
- Ceasing of non-essential maintenance works to reduce trades people on site
- Security of scarce personal protective equipment (PPE) so that we have a supply to protect staff in the event that we have COVID19 positive patient

- N95 mask fit testing for staff
- Locking of entry doors at designated times

Whilst all of the above strategies have been put in place to reduce the risk of COVID19 infected persons entering the facility, our focus is on planning for how we will manage COVID19 patients should we have to. A number of patient management pathways are currently being developed so that staff will have procedures that they can follow to ensure staff and patient safety. These include patient pathways for oncology, ICU, theatre, maternity and the inpatient cohort.

There has been a lot of staff education undertaken by the infection control staff Lisa and Bree as well as the learning development team in relation to PPE application and removal, hand hygiene and social distancing. Thanks team! Sue Carpenter has also done a great job leading the charge on mask fit testing.

We have established a daily huddle with representation from key areas within the hospital so that we can identify issues and work to resolve them as they arise. If you are experiencing significant issues can you, please let your manager know so that we can work to resolve these issues for you.

There is currently a nationwide shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (masks, gowns, gloves, face shields). There is work being undertaken at a local, regional and national level to source additional supplies. If I could ask that all staff undertake good Calvary stewardship when using PPE so that we conserve this valuable resource.

With all of these changes and activity it is really pleasing to see the values and mission of Calvary continue to be seen. I wanted to share with you some patient feedback that has been received which is a testament to the great job you are all doing;

"My experience was perfect and I couldn't recommend Calvary highly enough. From the time I entered the hospital it functioned like a well-oiled machine, even with all of the extra pressure given the recent changes to processes due to COVID19. The staff were all so friendly, caring, professional and there was never a time where a staff member was more than a few metres from me so I always felt very safe. I want to say a big thank you to all of the hospital staff that helped me yesterday - from the greeter at the hospital door to the reception that checked me in, to the nurse that escorted me to day surgery, to the admissions person who did my paperwork and the nurse who got me all ready for surgery then of course Dr Earl who is amazing and so lovely - and Justin the anaesthetist - and all of the nurses who helped in theatre and in recovery before I got to go home. A perfect experience: couldn't fault it. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

"From the moment I entered the hospital EVERY staff member I had contact with was exceptionally caring and extremely professional. I cannot speak highly enough of the way they went about their work - from the nurses to the anaesthetist and surgeon, especially given the current circumstances!"

International Year of the Nurse and Midwife

With 2020 being designated the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife we will be undertaking a range of different activities to celebrate the outstanding contribution that nurses make to health care delivery. Congratulations to Kevin Hardy who is a finalist for the Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards. Unfortunately these awards have now been postponed due to the COVID19 restrictions now in place.

Artwork

St Helen's corridors have recently been painted and the walls have been adorned with Art work from four local artists. There are a range of pieces that are all for sale. It has certainly brightened up the hall way with many patients and staff getting to appreciate these works.

Mary Potter Hospice

Calvary North Adelaide has partnered with Central Adelaide Local Health Network to deliver palliative care services to patients from this network. Up to three beds will be available for this purpose enabling a greater number of patients to receive the outstanding end of life care that the hospice delivers. The Hospice inpatient rooms have also recently been painted with the corridors to be completed post COVID19.

Patient Medication Administration Pumps

The new IV pumps are to be implemented on 31/03/2020 with 4 styles of pump: VP (infusion pump), SP (syringe driver), PCA, TIVA (syringe driver with proprietary TCI models). Each pump is intuitive and has embedded Wi-Fi connectivity and the latest standards, enabling cyber secure communication. We have an advanced drug error reduction system through the drug library capabilities, thank you to Dr Darren Burns, Dr Mathew Hooper and Dr Julie Grant for their input into the drug libraries. The new pumps will provide our VMO's and nursing staff with the most up to date resources to safely and effectively deliver IV fluid and medication to our patients. We have increased the PCA number by 45%, infusion pumps by 15% and doubled the amount of TIVA pumps available in theatre.

Friday Yum

This great initiative from the chefs within the kitchen continues to be a great success with staff raving about the delicious meals available to staff on a Friday. 60 covers are regularly done each Friday with the menu ranging from Laksa to spicy chicken wings. Many staff are ordering multiple meals so that Friday night dinner at home for the family is covered!

Front Reception

The refurbishment of the front reception is now complete and looks great with painting, new cabinetry and the installation of the new mail box facilities which has assisted in a reduction of people having to access this busy work space.

Kimberley House

Kimberly House has recently had its carpet replaced which is a great improvement to the look as well as improving the work health and safety conditions for the cleaning staff. The new carpet has a reduced pile enabling less manual force to clean this area which should go a long way to reducing staff injuries.

Maternity

The maternity unit has also had a refresh with the area recently being painted throughout and the flooring replaced. The patient kitchen has also been upgraded. More work is planned to occur in this space but will be post COVID19.

Radiology SA

Radiology SA (RSA) is currently undertaking an upgrade to their facilities with one of the end results being that inpatients will enter the department through a new access area further along the ground floor corridor. This will enable inpatients to be separated from the day visiting patients. The corridor adjacent to RSA and the western end lifts is also currently undergoing a refurbishment with painting, carpet replacement, improved lighting and window treatments.

As you can see there is certainly a lot going on at Calvary North Adelaide, and the COVID19 pandemic has created a lot of uncertainty for many. As employees of Calvary you are recognised as front line essential staff and I thank you all for all that you are doing.

Be kind to yourself and be kind to others. Remember when you can't control what's happening, challenge yourself to control the way you respond to what's happening. That's where your power is.

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You matter. We care about you.



Founded in 1885 by the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary, Calvary is a charitable, not-for-profit, Catholic health care organisation.

Our mission is to provide quality, compassionate health care to the most vulnerable, including those reaching the end of their life.

We are responsible for over 12,000 staff and volunteers, 15 Public and Private Hospitals, 17 Retirement and Aged Care Facilities and a national network of Community Care Centres.



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