



Waitemata
District Health Board
Best Care for Everyone

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Hospital bedside technology to fast-track care for patients who need it most

Waitemata District Health Board (DHB) clinicians have new technology at their fingertips to help identify and fast-track care to hospital patients who need it most.

The *Patientrack* system provides digital patient observations alerting clinicians to deterioration in a patient's health allowing them to monitor patient information at the bedside or wherever they are in the hospital with specifically designed software on tablet devices.

Waitemata DHB Director of Infection Prevention and Control and Associate Director of Nursing Jenny Parr says the introduction of the system is a significant step forward in the quality of care we provide to our patients.

"The new real-time system means we will no longer rely on paper charts to search for records and identify patterns, which ultimately means more clinical time to focus on the patient."

"It is exciting to introduce new technology to improve efficiency, but what's important is the potential for it to directly influence the health and experience of individuals in our care."

The project commenced at Anawhata ward at Waitakere Hospital this month, the first ward in a gradual roll-out across both North Shore and Waitakere hospitals. Completion is expected in 2017.

"It is still early days, but the new system will also give us visibility of trends in patient outcomes across our hospitals so we can use this information to make positive changes in the care we provide."

Waitemata DHB eVitals Clinical Lead and clinical nurse specialist Peter Groom explains the benefits.

"A nurse needs the fluid chart to administer the correct fluids and yet that might slow down a doctor doing the ward round because they need the chart at the same time," he says.

"Now, all the doctor needs is one of the tablet devices stationed in the ward and immediately they can read the patient's chart simultaneously. Also, the dietitian can be elsewhere in the hospital and still make sure the correct amount of fluid is being administered."

CEO of MKM Health (the local distributor of *Patientrack*) Kate Quirke is excited about the potential of the project with Waitemata DHB.

"We're pleased to be able to assist the DHB with their ongoing commitment to delivering safe and high quality patient care through innovation."

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The introduction of the system is the next step in moving the DHB to an all-electronic health record (EHR) designed to improve safety by ensuring patient information is readily available to clinicians and cannot be misread.

Patientrack was initially conceptualised by New Zealand born doctor, Professor Michael Buist; and was quickly adopted by various NHS trusts in the United Kingdom. Recent statements from NHS Fife (the first health board in Scotland to implement *Patientrack*) show that the system has helped them achieve an immediate and significant reduction, by up to two thirds, in cardiac arrests in one of the busiest areas of the hospital through the ability to identify, discuss and effectively manage their sickest patients.

ENDS

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