



# An Alternative Approach for the Delivery of Pathology Services in a Rural Setting

Pathology Queensland and Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service

Presenter: Bob Partridge

Improving Pathology Services (HRT1720)

Brisbane, QLD, Australia 18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017



# Key Problem

---

## Maryborough Hospital

- Had a busy category B laboratory 1990's until closure in 2012
- Lab offered a full range of services including micro
- From 2012 all pathology testing referred to nearby Hervey Bay Laboratory

## Drivers for change in service delivery post lab closure

- Political drivers
- Increased costs for taxi/courier services (\$110,000 pa)
- Afternoon outpatient clinic activity increased the referral to private pathology services
- External review of NEAT achievements
- Significant model of care changes implemented post the closure of on-site pathology service

# Aim of this innovation

---

Improve Maryborough Hospital access to pathology services through enhanced point of key testing capability to support;

- Hospital beds ~ 88 plus 14 bed alternatives
- Emergency presentations ~ 25000 per annum
- Outpatient Presentations ~15000 per annum
- Wide range of services offered including; 24 hour emergency, internal medicine, general and orthopaedic surgery, perioperative, renal unit, supportive therapies
- Future significant model of care changes including; total knee and hip replacement, supportive therapies iron/blood transfusion and palliative care
- To deliver a limited range of tests on site with availability for near patient testing by non-pathology specialist staff after hours

# Baseline Data

---

## Point of Care “Laboratory” Commissioned.

- Small area 44m<sup>2</sup> refurbished

## POC Devices installed

- Abbott iStat
- Alere Affinion
- Sysmex XN 550
- Clintek Status Urine

## Test Menu

- FBC
- CRP
- Istat – Quant HCG, CRP, Chem 8, TNI, PT/INR
- Urine Chemistry
- Snake Venom Detection
- Blood products for transfusion stored on site and issued



# pathology queensland



# Key Changes Implemented

---

- Wide Bay HHS were dissatisfied with the level of service provided from an off site laboratory.
- A traditional NPAAC Cat B laboratory was not financially viable (cost ~ \$1.2 M).
- An innovative alternative was sought and identified.

# Outcomes so far

---

- Turn around times for tests available on site are aligned with clinical need
- Pathology Collection is available on site Monday to Friday for 8 hours per day
- Scientific support to ensure training, quality control and maintenance of POCT devices is available from 800 to 1600 on week days and on weekends
- After hours nurse unit managers and staff in the emergency department have been trained and operate the POCT equipment in the laboratory after hours. The benefit of this is that there is 24 hour availability for testing.
- Client feedback has been positive.

# Lessons Learnt

---

- There are alternatives to traditional laboratories.
  - This model has application in other rural and remote facilities with the potential for significant patient and economic benefit
  - With close collaboration between Pathology providers and Health and Hospital Services Point of Care and Near Patient testing can be a viable alternative.
- 
- For more information Contact: Bob Partridge
  - Tel: 0402 264110





