



Princess Alexandra Hospital  
Ward 3C Cardiothoracic

## Graduate Nurse Program

### Unit overview

Ward 3C is a 28-bed unit for the care of patients undergoing cardiac and thoracic surgery. The unit accepts elective and emergency admissions from across Queensland.

### The cardiothoracic team

- Nurse Unit Manager
- TAVR Clinical Nurse Consultant
- Clinical Facilitator
- Case Manager
- Clinical Nurses, Registered Nurses, Enrolled Nurses and Assistants in Nursing
- Cardiothoracic Surgeons
- Allied Health
- Administration Officers



### What is it like to work on 3C?

Cardiothoracic is an interesting and complex speciality which involves complex surgical interventions and significant comorbidities.

It is an exciting speciality with a dynamic team who strive for excellent patient outcomes. Our nursing team are

invested in developing new staff so that they become expert clinicians.

Nursing staff on 3C develop a wide variety of surgical nursing skills including:

- Management of intercostal catheters
- Dopamine, heparin and insulin infusions
- Wound management including VAC assisted therapy and sternal packing
- Pain management including PCAs and regional infusions
- Central line management
- Drain management
- Pre and post-operative care
- ECG and rhythm interpretation
- Indwelling catheter insertion and management
- Nasogastric tube insertion and management
- Patient education
- Cardiac surgery rehabilitation strategies

### Cardiothoracic surgical procedures

- Coronary artery bypass surgery
- Pneumectomy
- Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR)
- Cardiac valve repair
- VATs (Video Assisted Thoracoscopy) and pleurodesis
- Wedge resection
- Lobe resection/biopsy
- Decortication
- Bronchoscopy
- Mediastinoscopy

### Hospital initiatives

- Magnet®
- Planetree
- Commitment to Reconciliation
- Digital Hospital

## Program benefits

- Structured graduate nurse program that will assist you to transition from novice graduate nurse to a confident and skilled practitioner
- The provision of education and support needed to build an enriching and rewarding professional career
- Joining an organisation that is internationally recognised for nursing excellence and developing leaders of the future
- Supportive clinical and educational environment that promotes competence and confidence in clinical practice
- Diverse clinical specialties from which to choose
- Multiple career development pathways with opportunities to progress and achieve your future nursing career goals.



## Graduate nursing program

- Four study days
- Preceptorship from an experienced Registered Nurse
- Learning packages to improve knowledge of cardiac anatomy and physiology, rhythm interpretation and epicardial pacing.
- Develop skills in intercostal catheter management, cardiac drain management and epicardial pacing.
- Advanced life support training following completion of unit-based competencies
- Opportunity to view cardiac and thoracic surgeries in the operating theatre
- Assigned portfolio group within unit
- A range of clinical competencies to achieve

## More information

Visit [metrosouth.health.qld.gov.au](https://metrosouth.health.qld.gov.au) and search “graduate programs”.