



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 unit is also funded for 9 cardiology beds.

The Cardiothoracic Team

- Nurse Unit Manager
- TAVR Clinical Nurse Consultant
- Nurse Educator
- 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 specialty 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, amiodarone, 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®
- 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
- Clinical Coaching from experienced Registered and Clinical Nurses
- 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 and search “graduate programs”.