



Princess Alexandra Hospital
Cardiology Ward 3E

Graduate Nurse Program

Hospital overview

Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) is a large 780 bed tertiary health care centre, providing care in most major adult specialities.

- We are one of Australia's leading academic and research health centres providing the highest quality tertiary level cardiac services for patients from Metro South Health.
- Our nursing excellence is internationally recognised, and we are the only hospital in Queensland that has prestigiously been formally recognised as a Magnet organisation since 2004 by the *ANCC Magnet Recognition Program*[®].
- Continued Magnet Recognition ultimately recognises excellence in the practice of our 2,400 nurses, the delivery of high-quality care, support for personal and professional development, the supportive team environment and the commitment and passion to safe person-centred care.

Cardiology unit introduction

The Cardiology Unit is comprised of the Coronary Care Unit (CCU) and the Cardiology Ward 3E. CCU and 3E provide individualised patient care in co-operation with a multidisciplinary team including – nursing, medical, cardiac rehabilitation, heart failure, physiotherapy, pharmacy, social work, Better Cardiac Care and occupational therapy. We are a motivated and fast-paced Cardiology Unit striving for excellence in every aspect of patient care and continuing professional development.

Coronary Care Unit

CCU is a 14-bed unit consisting of eight acute and six procedure / stepdown beds. CCU is involved in the treatment and care of patients with a wide variety of cardiac conditions including – myocardial infarction – STEMI / NSTEMI, cardiac arrest, unstable arrhythmias, heart failure and electrophysiology studies.

Cardiology Ward 3E

3E is a 14-bed ward with the ability to telemetry monitor all 14 beds. This ward manages cardiac conditions that are stable and not requiring acute care. These include the following cardiac conditions: non-acute myocardial infarction, acute coronary syndrome, stable arrhythmias, decompensated heart failure. Patients undergoing cardiac procedures - coronary angiogram, electrophysiology studies, permanent pacemaker insertion.

Both CCU and Ward 3E have a close affiliation with the various hospitals in our broad catchment area in Southern Queensland and Northern NSW.

Cardiac procedures

- Angiography with angioplasty.
- Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump.
- Permanent pacemaker.
- Implantable cardiac defibrillator.
- Ablations.
- Closure devices.
- Cardioversions.
- Temporary venous pacing wire.

The Cardiology Team

- Nurse Unit Manager
- Nurse Educator
- Cardiology Rover Clinical Nurse Consultant
- Electrophysiology Clinical Nurse Consultant
- Clinical Facilitator
- Clinical Nurses, Registered Nurses and Assistants in Nursing

- Cardiologists – Interventionalists, Electrophysiologists and Imaging Consultants.
- Allied Health

Staffing and shifts

The nurse-to-patient ratio on 3E is 1:4 or 1:5. The CCU nurse to patient ratio is 1:2 or 1:1 depending on patient acuity. The six procedural beds have a ratio of 1:3.

Shifts include early (7am–3.30pm), late (1pm–9.30pm) and night duty (9pm–7.30am).

Education program overview

The Cardiology Unit here at PAH offers an extensive education program consisting of structured learning modules and assessments. We provide a wide range of educational resources and opportunities for further tertiary study in the field of cardiology/ coronary care.

The fulltime Cardiology Nurse Educator and Clinical Facilitator are available to assist you with educational support and guidance.

As a Graduate Nurse you will complete a specifically designed orientation program. You will have offline days with the Clinical Facilitator and your preceptor. You will then work the same shifts as your preceptor for ten days (where rostering allows).

You will spend your twelve-month graduate program in Cardiology Ward 3E. Here you can begin to develop your skills as a Registered Nurse and gradually increase your knowledge about cardiac nursing. You will have the opportunity to view a variety of procedures and care for patients with a broad range of cardiac conditions.

Clinical Skills

- Acute Coronary Syndrome.
- Venepuncture and cannula insertion.
- Anatomy & Physiology.
- Cardiac Monitoring.
- ECG Interpretation.
- TR-band deflation & management.
- Defibrillation & Cardioversion.
- Transcutaneous Pacing
- Permanent Pacemaker
- Implantable Cardiac Defibrillator.
- Advanced Life Support.

Hospital Initiatives

- Magnet®
- Commitment to Reconciliation
- Digital Hospital.

Program benefits

- A 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.
- A 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.

More information

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