



# On-the-spot testing to help patients

A NEW, simple-to-use device is about to give Junee emergency department (ED) patients and nurses a clearer picture of health.

Yesterday, NSW Health Pathology rolled out a “point of care” testing scheme to the hospital, which will enable staff to carry out on-the-spot pathology tests to deliver better and more timely care to patients.

It’s a service that hasn’t been available to staff before, with Junee requiring its pathology samples to be sent off-site to Wagga for analysis until recently.

The two devices, which take small blood samples from patients similar to that of a blood glucose monitor, will now be able to give nurses immediate information about blood gases, lactate, haemoglobin, troponin and chemistries, which they rely on for making clinical decisions.

“By having reliable point of care devices in the ED, we can get faster results for certain pathology tests, which means we can make quicker clinical decisions and improve time to treatment,” Junee Health Service manager Phil Major said.

The devices are a huge step forward, not just for Junee, but also for other smaller hospitals across the Murrumbidgee Local Health Service, which will also receive the devices.

Director of operations Jill Ludford said it was a resource saver.

“If a patient presents with chest pain, nurses are able to take blood and complete the test within a certain time frame and have the results



**TIME-SAVING DEVICE:** Junee resident Beryl O'Mara (seated) has a test completed by registered nurse Donna McCarthy with a new point of care device. Junee Health Services manager Phil Major watches on. Picture: Kree Nash

straight away,” she said.

“This will allow nurses to utilise the full breadth of

their skills and will also end unnecessary ambulance transfers into Wagga.”

Junee is one of 27 EDs in the Murrumbidgee to receive the devices.