



On-spot pathology testing now in Deni

Handheld point of care testing program devices have been introduced at Deniliquin Hospital, providing fast access to some pathology services.

The aim of Deniliquin's new machine, which was received on Wednesday, is to provide ED teams, particularly in regional and rural areas, with access to on-the-spot results for certain types of pathology tests so they can deliver more timely care for patients.

The new devices provide on-site analysis for blood gases, lactate, haemoglobin, troponin, chemistries and electrolytes and INR/PT – some of the most common pathology tests emergency department teams rely on.

NSW Health Pathology is leading the state-wide effort to introduce the managed point of care testing scheme in public hospital emergency departments that don't have access to 24-hour pathology laboratories on-site.

The Murrumbidgee Local Health District is the latest to adopt the program and is working with Pathology West to introduce 43 devices across 27 emergency departments by the end of this month.

Deniliquin Health Service nurse manager Andrew Dagg said the new devices mean patients can be tested after hours and faster results for some pathology tests can be achieved.

“By having the point of care devices within

the ED, we can run tests on the spot and rule out possible issues faster,” he said.

“This means in some cases we can make quicker clinical decisions and improve time to treatment.”

Pathology West acting director Dr Michael Whiley said point of care testing contributes to better health care by significantly reducing turnaround time for some types of pathology tests.

“Point of care testing will never replace the full-fledged pathology laboratory, however technology has advanced to a stage that we can now bring some parts of the pathology laboratory to the patient,” he said.



■ Deniliquin Hospital registered nurse Barbara Truelsen, nurse unit manager of emergency Ginny Lange, nurse Pam Manna and nurse Faisal Ismail.