



Laboratory comes to the bedside in hospital first

Betina Hughes

PATIENTS at Muswellbrook District Hospital will no longer have to wait for laboratory pathology results.

NSW Health pathology has rolled out what they are calling the world's largest point of care system, bringing the laboratory to the bedside.

Hospital staff members are able to use new monitors to give patients accurate pathology results within minutes.

NSW Health Pathology point of care testing manager Andrew Sargeant said the program has been very successful.

"It's been on time and on budget, and delivering a lot of quality results," Mr Sargeant said.

"For the patient, you have got faster access to pathology."

Mr Sargeant said another benefit is patients can remain at hospital in their home town when they would otherwise have to be transferred.

The hand-held point of care testing devices can take blood lactate, haemoglobin, troponin, chemistries and electrolytes and INR/PT at the bedside and can make diagnosis on the spot, 24 hours a day.

Rural and regional hospitals are set to benefit from the initiative, including Denman and Merriwa.



FASTER RESULTS: Muswellbrook hospital patient Dane Smith is pleased about the new point of care system, as is nurse Rebecca Farley and NSW Health Pathology point of care testing manager Andrew Sargeant.