



New program to improve overall care

Kurri Hospital has introduced a new point-of-care testing program that will give emergency department patients faster access to pathology results and improve overall care.

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

The aim is to provide emergency department 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 Hunter New England Local Health District is the latest to adopt the

program and worked with Pathology North to introduce 31 devices across 28 emergency departments.

Kurri Hospital has introduced one new device and upgraded an existing device to support patient care.

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

“By having reliable point-of-care devices within the ED, we can get faster results for certain tests and make quicker clinical decisions,” general manager Trish Wilson said.