



**Princess Alexandra Hospital**  
Cardiology and Coronary Care 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 specialties.

- 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.
- AF/VT Ablations.
- PFO/ASD Closure devices.
- Cardioversions.
- Temporary venous pacing wire.

### The Cardiology Team

- 1x FTE Nurse Unit Manager
- 1xFTE Nurse Educator
- 1x FTE Cardiology Rover Clinical Nurse Consultant
- 1xFTE Electrophysiology Clinical Nurse Consultant
- 1xFTE Electrophysiology Clinical Nurse
- 1xFTE 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 1:3 to 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 or 2.30pm-11pm) 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 over 12 to 18 months. 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. The education staff also organise a daily in-service to staff Monday to Friday.

As a Graduate Nurse you will complete a specifically designed orientation program. You will have offline days with the Clinical Facilitator before completing 2 weeks of buddy shift, you will then begin to take your own patient load.

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. Upon completion of your graduate program, you have the opportunity to work more regularly in the Coronary Care Unit, although this is not mandatory.

## Clinical Skills

- Venepuncture and cannula insertion.
- Cardiac Monitoring and rhythm interpretation.
- ECG Interpretation.
- TR-band deflation & management.
- Defibrillation & Cardioversion.
- Transcutaneous Pacing.
- Advanced Life Support.

## CCU Clinical Skills

- Arterial line management.
- Non-Invasive Ventilation.
- Temporary Pacing Wire management.
- Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump management.
- Arterial and Venous sheath removal and management.

## 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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