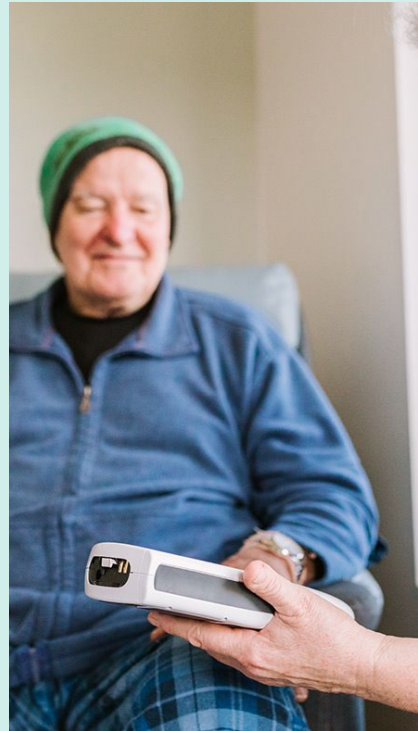


NSW Health Pathology Services at Cootamundra

Introducing the latest in pathology testing technology at Cootamundra



NSW Health Pathology has been speaking to a range of people about how we deliver a modern service with the latest technology, now and for years to come.

Pathology services at Cootamundra Health Service are provided by NSW Health Pathology (NSWHP), a statewide service which is part of NSW Health. This will not change. We have over 60 labs and 150 collection centres across NSW and provide public pathology services to all healthcare facilities in Murrumbidgee Local Health District.

In the local area we have a network of laboratories and collection centres with:

- Collections staff who take blood and other samples from patients
- Scientific and technical staff who test the samples in our labs
- Couriers who drive the samples between our collection centres and labs.

We also have a range of Point of Care testing devices which deliver instant results.

Around 70 per cent of all medical decisions rely on pathology. You may not see all the pathology staff every time you come to hospital, but our dedicated teams ensure your samples are tested and you get results quickly so you can be diagnosed and start your treatment.

Collection services

- Our friendly collections staff are the “face of pathology” who collect samples from patients in hospital and in the community at our collection centres.
- NSWHP has over 150 collection centres across the state and 15 of them are in the Murrumbidgee region. Our Cootamundra collection service will remain open locally for patients to access.



Courier services

- Our couriers provide a 7-day per week service to the Murrumbidgee region, which means staff and patients have blood products, samples and laboratory consumables quickly and reliably.



Laboratory services

- Samples come for testing to our laboratories, which may be located on a hospital site, but not all hospitals have a laboratory.
- The size of the laboratory determines what tests they do with some samples being sent away to a more specialised hub laboratory. For the Murrumbidgee region, the hub is our Wagga Wagga laboratory.
- At Cootamundra, two thirds of tests are currently sent to other labs like Wagga Wagga or Sydney for more specialised testing. Expanding our service at Young will provide the opportunity for more testing to be done in the local region.



Point of Care testing

- You can think of Point of Care testing as a mini laboratory in a doctor or nurse's hand.
- Our devices give accurate, rapid results right at the patient's bedside.
- This includes tests to check a patient's heart, kidneys and lungs, as well as checking for infections and anaemia or monitoring conditions like diabetes.



A regional networked model for Cootamundra and Young

These changes will provide new technology, faster testing and a range of benefits for Cootamundra Health Service's emergency department.

We will:

- ✓ Keep the current collection services for inpatients and outpatients. You can access collection services Monday-Friday 7.30am-4.30pm at the Primary Health Centre, Mackay Street.
- ✓ Expand our Young laboratory service, including extending the operating hours to weekends to meet clinical demand and minimise call-backs (which is when our staff come in after hours and do urgent testing). This would mean most of the testing would be done in Young and our Cootamundra and Young laboratory staff would come together to be one team.
- ✓ Enhance our Point of Care testing capabilities at Cootamundra for faster urgent and on-site testing. This would include new full blood count technology.
- ✓ Increase courier runs between Cootamundra and Young to support same-day testing and maintain current turnaround times.
- ✓ Ensure emergency blood products and blood transfusion services are available for emergency responses and services like the Emergency Department, maternity and surgery care.

The changes will not impact current clinical services provided at Cootamundra Hospital, such as surgery and maternity care. Testing is done a bit differently, but patients will not experience any change to how they receive their care or collections.

For more information, please email or call NSW Health Pathology's Murrumbidgee Senior Operations Manager Anthony.Flaskas@health.nsw.gov.au or 0436 630 343.