BEDSIDE CLINICAL HANOVER
INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Patients in hospital receive 24 hour nursing care from either a nurse or midwife. The rosters differ according to the department and the type of care provided. In a busy ward there are usually three shifts each day: early morning, afternoon and late evening/night.

It is essential that each nurse/midwife involved in your care has up to date information about your status and treatment. This communication occurs at the end of each shift through handover.

What is bedside clinical handover?
Bedside clinical handover is the sharing of clinical information about you between your treating nurse/midwife and the person who will be taking over your care. Performing the handover at your bedside allows the nurse/midwife to visualise what is discussed and to ensure continuity in your care.

Medical and allied health staff conduct separate handovers.

What happens during the handover?
We aim to perform handover during non-visiting hours. When this is not possible your visitors and those visiting others in your room will be asked to leave while personal information about you is discussed. Parents, carers and family members can stay during your handover if you choose.

During handover:
- You will be introduced to your nurse/midwife for the next shift
- Information shared may include:
  - Your medical history and your current clinical condition
  - Tests and procedures that you have had or that are scheduled
  - Your need for assistance with everyday tasks such as showering and toileting
  - Plans for your discharge, even if it is a few days away
- The nurses/midwives will review your medical charts together and check any drips or drains that you may have
- You may be asked to comment on the information discussed
- Nurses/midwives will use discretion when discussing sensitive information.

If you have any questions
Your nurse/midwife will be happy to discuss any non urgent needs that you may have once the handover is complete. You can talk about bedside clinical handover with your nurse/midwife, the clinical educator or the manager of your ward. An interpreter can be arranged if required.