

The Tree Hutt turns one

The Tree Hutt, the children's area in the Hutt Hospital Emergency Department (ED) celebrates its first anniversary this month.



The child-friendly space was designed to provide distraction for young patients, to help them cope with their hospital experience.

The Tree Hutt opened on 3 September 2011 and has been such a success that the idea was expanded to other areas of ED and in theatre, where it is known as The Tree Top.

"Staff have found assessment and treatment goes more smoothly because the children appear less distressed," said Stephanie Beddis, Registered Nurse.

Thanks to community support The Tree Hutt has a growing range of reading books, DVDs and toys. It is also able to replace old or broken equipment. "We have plans to develop The Tree Hutt further, so if you would like to become a supporter please get in touch," said Steph.

For more information please visit: www.thetreehutt.org.nz

Pilot to offer better support for Hep C patients

Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa DHBs are working with The Hepatitis Foundation (NZ) and community-based health providers to improve access to support services for patients living with chronic hepatitis C and encourage people that may be at risk to get tested. The pilot will be launched at Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa DHBs in early 2013.

According to the Foundation there are an estimated 5,800 people living with hepatitis C across the sub-region. Chronic hepatitis C is the main cause of liver transplants in New Zealand and if left untreated can have serious health effects.

Those at risk of hepatitis C are people who have ever: injected drugs; received a blood transfusion before 1992; lived or received medical attention in high-risk countries; been in prison; or used unsterile equipment for tattooing or body piercing. Children born to mothers with hepatitis C are also at risk.

"This programme will be a terrific help to identify people that need treatment and offer them ongoing support," said Dr Richard Stein, supervising clinician for the Wairarapa pilot. "We have around 50 patients we hope to enrol in the Wairarapa and combined with the Hutt Valley and Wellington pilots will mean better service coverage and better outcomes for our populations," he said.

Patients' care is centrally managed by a community hepatitis nurse who is supported by a range of specialists including hospital staff, GPs and other community-based health providers. They will also have access to FibroScan, an ultrasound technique that helps measure progression of the disease.

Dr Jeff Wong, Hutt Hospital gastroenterology specialist says, "we are delighted to participate in the Foundation's Hepatitis C Pilot Programme. We hope it will increase the number of people completing treatment and with the current treatment available, two thirds of patients can be cured."

Gastroenterology involves providing care for people with diseases of the 'gut', liver and pancreas.

"The gastroenterology services at the three DHBs are looking for opportunities to work more closely together," says Dr Nigel Stace, Wellington Hospital Gastroenterologist. "We see the pilot as a great opportunity to get this started."

For more information about the pilots or hepatitis C please contact:
The Hepatitis Foundation (NZ)
www.hepatitisfoundation.org.nz
 0800 33 20 10

e-tool for dementia

Do you work with older adults affected by dementia, depression, anxiety, and personality issues?

There is an e-tool that will help you:

- keep up to date with the latest training and protocols;
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- measure your knowledge, learning and experience.

Register to use the tool at: www.networknorth.org.nz/e-resources

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 Your General Practice
 should always be your
 first choice



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 24 hours a day call your
 General Practice or
 Healthline 0800 611 116

Board meetings

Community & Public Health Advisory Committee

9.00am Monday 15 October 2012
 Hutt Valley DHB Boardroom

Hospital Advisory Committee

9.00am Friday 19 October 2012
 Hutt Valley DHB Boardroom

Board Meeting

9.00am Friday 28 September 2012
 Hutt Valley DHB Boardroom

Disability Support Advisory Committee

1.00pm Monday 12 November 2012
 Capital and Coast DHB Boardroom

Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings. Meeting agendas are available on our website: www.huttvalleydhb.org.nz

Meningococcal disease

The recent death of a Wellington schoolgirl from meningococcal disease shows how unpredictable the disease can be.

Meningococcal disease is caused by a bacterial infection. Group B and Group C are the most common strains in NZ. Babies, children and teens are at the highest risk and early treatment is important.

Meningococcal disease usually causes meningitis (an inflammation of the brain lining and spinal cord) and blood poisoning. Patients with the disease need urgent treatment with antibiotics. One of the most important things is that everyone knows the signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease and when and how to seek medical help.

The Wellington Medical Officer of Health, Dr Annette Nesdale, is reminding parents and young people that the MenZB vaccine delivered in schools a few years ago does not provide protection against group C disease, so parents should not assume their children are protected against meningococcal disease. This vaccine was for the 'B' strain and protection was not long lasting. It is important not to ignore symptoms whether or not the person has been vaccinated.

In the early stages Meningococcal disease can look like other more common illnesses such as the 'flu but people with meningococcal disease get worse very quickly. Watch for a high fever, headache, neck stiffness, drowsiness and joint pain. Many people may get a rash of bruise-like spots. People may be sensitive to bright lights, feel nauseous and vomit. But only a few symptoms may show at any given time.

Keep a close eye on anyone showing these symptoms – check on them regularly, including overnight. If you are worried call Healthline on 0800 611 116 or see a doctor immediately.



(04) 566 6999
 main hospital phone number