



South Canterbury District Health Board
Private Bag 911 • Timaru • 03 684 4000

"To enhance the health and independence of the people of South Canterbury."

26 October 2007

Ron Patterson
Health & Disability Commissioner
P O Box 1791
Auckland

Re: Review of South Canterbury DHB's response to HDC Capital & Coast DHB Report

Dear Ron

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to and provide additional information in relation to the above report. The following are our comments for consideration:

1. Lack of timelines

At the time of the initial request SCDHB provided a gap analysis report rather than the full action plan including responsibility and timeframes. I have attached our action plan which in addition includes the first of our quarterly updates on progress against plan as monitored by our Clinical Risk Committee.

2. Content and delivery of nursing handover

I have attached a copy of our developed guidelines included in a memo to all nursing staff as well as a 'Nursing Process Handover Reminder Sheet' which was used to in-service all areas with staff each receiving a copy.

3. Clinical assessment of the unstable patient

I have attached a copy of our Critical Illness Assessment Pathway. Nursing and medical staff have received education on this on the introduction of this process.

4. EN scope of practice

I have attached a copy of the memo recently distributed to staff re scope of practice and intention to audit compliance.

As South Canterbury is a small community our local media tends to take an intense interest in the hospital. I would appreciate it if our review could be amended to acknowledge the above comments.

Yours sincerely,

CAMurphy

Carol Murphy
Quality Advisor