

Your donation to the Royal Hospital for Women Foundation will ensure we continue to care for the women and babies of NSW

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A self addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Please make cheques payable to RHW Foundation
Tel (02) 9382 6720 Fax (02) 9382 6762 ABN 79 276 416 465
Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Thank you for your support.

The Right Royal Baby Stars - Order Form

Commemorate your child's birth at the Royal Hospital for Women with a star on the Baby Wall

Minimum contribution of \$50 each star (one star per child)

First Name Middle Name Surname

Date of Birth Girl/Boy Gold or Silver Star

Please complete the above details and payment section and post to RHW Foundation

Department Profile - Pharmacy



You would think that visiting around 120 inpatients every morning, advising their doctors on dosage and interactions, and quickly dispensing medications could become somewhat tiring after a few years. Not so for two very long serving members of the Royal's small but very productive Pharmacy Department.

Gary Gridneff, the Royal's Chief Pharmacist, and Inara Gaudins, also a Pharmacist, have worked together for over 34 years and are a very strong and capable team. As Gary says, "When you know what you're doing and you love what you're doing, it comes easily to you". But having only two pharmacists to look after roughly 120 patients every day can be tough going. Thankfully in June this year, they became a team of three, with the addition of pharmacist Selina Boughton.

This very efficiently run department works like a well-oiled machine. Although only open between 8.30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, Gary, Inara and Selina are on call, on a rotational basis, 24/7 every day of the year. Why? - Because they provide a very important service to the Royal's inpatients. They not only check a patient's chart and dispense the medications, they also work closely with doctors and nurses, advising when needed on the selection, dosage, interactions and side effects of particular medications.

And if the doctors and nurses can't find what they need in an emergency drug cupboard in the middle of the night, on a weekend or public holiday, one member of this team is called to assist. And happily assist they do. "The fact that we're doing a job that makes women's and babies good health a reality and alleviates their problems or sufferings makes it all worthwhile", says Gary.

And who are their patients? They tend to be split fairly evenly between the tiniest premature babies in the Newborn Care Centre, to the oldest women in the oncology or gynaecology wards. It's not all about mixing up straight medications though - the very fragile babies in the Newborn Care Centre often require non-standard, miniscule doses that must be specially made up. And because medications have become so complex, they often advise doctors and nurses on drug interactions and side effects. That's why an in-house pharmacy is so beneficial as "the on the spot communication with patients and their doctors allows more personal contact and clinical intervention when required", Gary comments.

Rest assured you'll always find one of the team tucked behind the small window of the Pharmacy Department on Level 2 working hard to do their part in making sure the Royal's inpatients are kept as healthy, strong and pain free as possible.