

**INQUIRY INTO OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF  
THE NORTHERN BEACHES HOSPITAL**

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

Hi,

I'm a nurse with 40 yrs experience, I decided to go to northern beaches hospital . I was their on day one of opening. I have never in my career of nursing experienced anything like this, it was completely unexpected as to what I was walking into.

What I saw what I experienced was :

All of what you have heard no syringes needles the list goes on.

We were cutting medication with fingers /scissors ,as no pill cutters, we were counting s8 s4 drugs with our fingers no plastic triangular pill counters, no working blood sugar machines, I was documenting in my notes , unable to obtain blood sugar as no machine working , I witnessed multiple rapid responses day after day as patient were not being properly clinically managed. One time no oxygen to be found, nurses were leaving shifts in tears , nurses going on stress leave . Their are no wash basins in any of the general area on level 3 mental health, for a nurse to wash her hands the wash basin is in the office or medication room, we all complained but were given hand hygiene bottles on walls, so soiled beds, incontinent pads , a nurse re infection control should have access to at least one wash hand basin , but no you have to open a door go back to nurses station to wash hands .

They employed nurses that could not get work in nsw health, so a lot of the nurses I was working with had all come from nursing homes, had NOT had experiences in a hospital acute environment , so this lead to multiple medication errors throughout the hospital, lack of experience re emergencies , I was buddied up with one of the nurses for the second day, then they were all left to go it alone , so they were all working unsupervised , this was a major clinical / management error . I was told one shift to work in an area that was out of my expertise , I walked off the shift !

One of the nurses with only nursing home experience was sent to ICU , She was not IV accredited she was so young she was too scared to say no. None of these nurses will say anything as they are so grateful to get a job in a hospital. They are lovely / caring but lacking re clinical knowledge . I suggest for further factual information, you ask to get access to the reporting system re errors / near misses it is called RISKMAN This is reporting system used for all incidents that happen on shift . I have not mentioned all of what has happened, but I will finish with yes it has improved , but it is no where up to the standard of NSW health , every shift we protect our registration for the whole 8 hrs ,protocols made on the run, lack of strong nursing management ,

A doctor that I worked with a consultant I won't say the name , her words on leaving was this place is like faulty towers , she left 2 weeks later back to royal north shore .