

Question on Notice

No. 1509

Asked on 28 November 2023

MRS D FRECKLINGTON ASKED MINISTER FOR HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR WOMEN (HON S FENTIMAN)—

QUESTION

With reference to x-ray services at the Kingaroy Hospital—

Will the Minister advise (a) the process for x-ray referral, review and verification of results, (b) average wait time for verification of x-ray reports, (c) if the result is a new finding, what is the average time from verification of the report to contact with the patient and (d) how many patients (with a new finding) waited longer than the average wait time to receive contact regarding verification of their x-ray report?

ANSWER

I am advised that all patients seeking to have an x-ray performed at Kingaroy Hospital are required to have a valid request form completed by their health care provider prior to accessing the service. All referrals are checked for validity and protocolled as per Toowoomba Radiologists Standing Orders.

Once the x-ray has been conducted, x-ray images are available immediately on the PACs system for providers to review. Review of x-ray images and reports is primarily the requesting provider's responsibility. If the patient is under the care of Kingaroy Hospital, the images will be reviewed shortly after the x-ray is performed by the treating doctor. Immediate management is guided by the treating doctor's interpretation of the x-ray images at the time.

X-ray images are sent to Everlight in batches, twice per day, for radiologist reporting, with a contracted turnaround time of 3 business days. Radiologist reports are returned to the Kingaroy Hospital PACs system.

At Kingaroy Hospital, all radiologist reports are reviewed by doctors to ensure appropriate management and follow-up. Significant findings identified by the reporting radiologist are emailed to the Kingaroy Hospital Medical Superintendent and Team Leader Medical Imaging, to ensure appropriate management and follow up.

If the patient is under the care of a Kingaroy Hospital outpatient clinic, images will be reviewed via mechanisms at the clinic.

Darling Downs HHS cannot comment on the processes of providers not employed at Kingaroy Hospital use to review the images they request, or the processes they use to follow up on reports for x-rays they request.

I am also advised that Kingaroy Hospital does not measure the average time from verification of the report, to contact with the patient, where the result was a new finding or on how many patients waited longer than the average wait time.