

10 April 2025

## Is your Doctor Closed this Easter? Avoid a Trip to the Emergency Department...

Wentworth Healthcare, the provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network, is reminding the community that the hospital is not the only option when your doctor is closed over the upcoming Easter and Anzac Day public holidays.

Wentworth Healthcare CEO, Lizz Reay, said that after hours or urgent care services offer an important alternative to the emergency department for urgent, but not life-threatening, injuries or illnesses, and in cases where your regular GP may not be open.

"If you or your family needs medical assistance over the upcoming public holidays, there are a range of options available. Our **DoctorClosed.com.au** website can help local residents to search for a GP who is open after hours, for doctors who can make home visits or for your closest Urgent Care Clinic. You can also use the online symptom checker, find pharmacies that are open, or talk to a health professional 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling the *healthdirect* helpline on **1800 022 222**," said Ms Reay.

Ms Reay added that the Doctor Closed website is accessible for multicultural communities, with translated pages in six different languages.

In the Penrith area, the **Medicare Urgent Care Clinic** located inside Our Medical, at 2227 Wolseley Street near Penrith Homemaker Centre, is bulk-billed and open for walk-ins without the need for an appointment from 8:00am to 8:00pm, seven days a week, 365 days a year, including Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday and Anzac Day.

The Clinic can treat those with urgent but non life-threatening illnesses or injuries, such as closed fractures, injuries requiring stitching, minor burns, leg ulcers, gastro, or conditions requiring IV rehydration, urinary tract infections, upper respiratory tract conditions, ear, nose and throat infections, rashes, small abscess drainage and more.

The **Penrith After Hours Doctors** located at Nepean Village Shopping Centre provides another walk-in option, and is open Monday to Friday, 6:00pm to midnight, and on weekends and public holidays, 3:00pm to midnight.

The **Penrith 24 Hour Pharmacy** located at 438 High Street, is open 24 hours, 365 days of the year for those needing urgent medications.

In addition to these services, Ms Reay mentioned that if you or someone you know are experiencing mental health concerns or crisis, the **Penrith Medicare Mental Health Centre** located at 111 Henry Street, is open 7 days per week, 365 days a year, including public holidays. Services are free without the need for a Medicare card, prior appointment or referral. The centre's opening hours are 1:00pm - 9:30pm (Monday, Wednesday – Sunday) and from 1:00pm - 5:00pm on Tuesdays, and from 1:00pm – 9:30pm on public holidays.

"We are proud to support these after hours services in our region, offering our community alternative options to going to a hospital, especially during long weekends and public holidays when wait times can be long and emergency departments are often under additional pressure."

"I encourage everyone to visit **DoctorClosed.com.au** to find out what other local healthcare options are available," Ms Reay concluded.



In an emergency always call 000. If you or someone you know is in crisis, call Lifeline on 13 11 14. For those seeking urgent mental health care, you can also call the NSW Mental Health Line on 1800 011 511, which is available 24/7 including public holidays.