



## Media Release

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**To:** Media

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**Subject:** **Hospital Department Moves Begin**

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Change begins in earnest for staff and patients alike at Wairau Hospital next week as the Surgical Outpatients Department (SOPD) moves to a temporary location on the first floor above Ward 5 (Assessment, Treatment and Rehabilitation).

The move is the third in a series of temporary departmental relocations to allow for rebuild or refurbishment of existing areas of the hospital.

“The Surgical Outpatients move is an exciting step forward for the project,” says Project Director Martin Ridgway. “The redevelopment will become reality for the staff involved. The moving process is also a great opportunity for the departments to have a spring clean, which will ultimately ease the transition into the new facilities.”

The SOPD will move from their current location within the Emergency Department on December 11 and 12 with clinics resuming in the new location from December 15 2008.

Access to Surgical Outpatients and ample car parking will be via Gate 1 off Hospital Road. Staff will be available initially to assist with way-finding and both a lift and stairs are available to access the department.

Mr Ridgway said this move allowed a temporary High Dependency Unit to be developed in the place of Surgical Outpatients next to the Emergency Department. A new High Dependency Unit will be completed as part of the new facilities.

The SOPD will move to new permanent facilities in September 2010.

ENDS

For photo opportunities of the refurbishment and/or relocation, please contact the Project Administrator.