**Safe, Effective same-day discharge/repatriation for Cath Lab Patients**

The Te Manawa Taki regional cardiology service has long been served by Waikato Hospital for secondary and tertiary cath lab services. Recently Tauranga Hospital’s cath lab services have increased and in February 2024 commissioned a further 0.5 lab capacity. At the same time increased pressure on Waikato Hospital’s cath labs have meant that patients are waiting longer than KPI for cath lab procedures. A regional Cath Lab Operating Model was identified as key to improve access for regional patients by utilising capacity at Tauranga. Importantly however the number of cardiology beds in Tauranga could not be increased. A process was needed to repatriate patients to referring hospitals following cath lab procedures at Tauranga.

Using a collaborative approach, clinicians from across the region developed criteria for patients suitable to be treated at Tauranga as well as processes and pathways to allow safe same day discharge home or repatriation to referring hospital. Contingency plans were developed to allow admission to Tauranga or onward transfer to Waikato as required. Outcomes, patient and whanau satisfaction were monitored.

55 patients have been treated up to December 2024. 17 patients (30.9%) were discharged home post procedure, 21 (38.2%) were repatriated to referring hospital and 3 transferred to Waikato awaiting CABG. There were no readmissions within 1 week of discharge.

This study demonstrates that same day discharge/repatriation from a secondary PCI centre for regional acute patients can be both safe and effective. It requires a careful collaborative approach to developing processes and pathways to be successful.