

# Media Release

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BAY OF PLENTY  
DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD  
HAUORA A TOI

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## **Choices now available in Mt Maunganui and Tauranga for after-hours health care**

Mount Maunganui and Tauranga residents now have choices in where to go to get after hours and emergency medical treatment.

Tauranga Hospital ED Clinical Director, Dr Derek Sage said unfortunately people are coming to the ED when they could have had their after hours health issues seen to by their general practitioner (GP) at one of the three walk-in medical clinics based in the Mount or Tauranga.

“Last year we had 42,225 patients come through the hospital’s ED and the numbers continue to increase significantly.

“The department is very busy and we expect this trend to continue throughout the winter,” Dr Sage said.

Dr Sage said many patients believe their only option for after hours urgent healthcare was to attend the ED at their local hospital. “GP’s have established after-hours and walk-in clinics offering high standards of care and people should attend them rather than coming to the hospital where waits may be much longer.”

Dr Sage said some clinics also offer x- ray and other diagnostic services which mean that problems can be diagnosed before the patients arrive at the hospital to see a specialist.

The Bay of Plenty District Health Board’s GP Liaison Dr Andy Humphrey said the clinics are open seven days a week from 8am.

Even individuals who are not registered with a local GP or who are visitors to Tauranga or Mount Maunganui can attend these clinics although they will be charged a fee or a part-charge when they attend any of the after hours clinics.

The clinics are:

- Accident and Healthcare Medical Centre, 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Tauranga, open everyday 8am to 9pm.
- Bayfair Doctors, corner Girven Road and Grenada Street, Mount Maunganui, open Monday to Saturday 8am to 7pm and Sunday 8am to 6pm.
- CentralMed Medical Centre, corner 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Devonport Road, Tauranga, open Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm, Saturday 9am to 6pm and Sundays and public holidays 11am to 3pm.

Dr Sage said he and his staff like to be able to see all people immediately on their arrival at ED. But with the pressure of high numbers of people arriving at ED with urgent or life-threatening health problems, treatment of the more minor problems has to wait.

“One way that people can get speedier medical attention is by seeing their GP or going to one of the walk-in clinics.”

“The Government has set a target for District Health Boards that 95 percent of the people who come into the ED are admitted, discharged or transferred within six hours and DHB staff are working hard to achieve this target,” Dr Sage said.

The target alone is not the reason for Drs Sage and Humphrey urging people not to come to the hospital's ED. Dr Sage said staff do not like to see people with minor problems sitting waiting for hours for treatment in ED.

“We would rather they attended a GP or after-hours clinic where they can be seen promptly and their treatment begun quickly including, if required, referral to the hospital for specialised care.”

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