

# CARDIOTHORACIC SERVICES

Cardiothoracic surgery is the field of medicine related to the surgical treatment of diseases of the chest, particularly surgery of the heart and lungs.

Services can range from emergency and trauma care to elective surgery for chronic heart, lung and chest conditions.

The scope of this Framework describes the service, its requirements and the minimum staffing needs and clinical support services required within each level.

## Level 1 Cardiothoracic Services

No Level 1 service. Refer to higher level.

## Level 2 Cardiothoracic Services

No Level 2 service. Refer to higher level.

## Level 3 Cardiothoracic Services

No Level 3 service. Refer to higher level.

## Level 4 Cardiothoracic Services

No Level 4 service. Refer to higher level.

## Level 5 Cardiothoracic Services

### Service description

A Level 5 Service provides elective thoracic procedures by visiting/on-call cardiothoracic surgeons. A Level 5 Service is linked with palliative care and pain management services.

### Service requirements

- Elective thoracic procedures by visiting/on-call cardiothoracic surgeons
- Radiation oncology and medical oncology available on-site
- Palliative care and pain management services available on-site

- On-site ICU/CCU
- Access to specialised allied health services.

## Workforce requirements

- Visiting/on-call cardiothoracic surgeons
- On-call cardiothoracic surgeons able to be contacted 24 hours
- General surgeon on-site and on-call 24 hours
- Specialist anaesthetists on-site
- Medical oncologist, radiation oncologist, palliative care physician, pain medicine specialist on-site
- Access to designated allied health services appropriate to the level of cardiothoracic services being provided.

## Support service requirements

Anae	ICU/HDU	Path	Phar	Rad
5	5	5	5	5

# Level 6 Cardiothoracic Services

## Service description

A Level 6 service provides services at Level 5 plus the service is able to deal with high complex diagnosis and treatment in association with other specialities. It has a statewide referral role, research role and undergraduate and post graduate teaching role.

Level 6 cardiothoracic services in Tasmania do not provide heart and lung transplantation services.

## Service requirements

As for level 5 plus:

- Statewide referral role and pathways established to refer patients for elective and urgent cardiothoracic surgical procedures
- Elective and emergency thoracic and cardiothoracic procedures by on-site cardiothoracic surgeons
- Able to deal with highly complex diagnosis and treatment in association with other specialities
- Ability to provide intra aortic balloon pump and Extra corporeal membrane oxygenation [ECMO] facility by having perfusion and support services available round the clock
- Cardiothoracic registrar/RMO and round the clock cover
- Undergraduate and post graduate teaching role fulfilling the requirements of the RACS
- Research role.

## Workforce requirements

As for Level 5 plus:

- At least 2 fully trained cardiac surgeons accredited by the *Royal Australasian College of Surgeons* available 24 hours, seven days a week
- A cardiac anaesthetists – one for every ~~400-100~~ adult cases treated
- At least 2 cardiac medical and/or clinically accredited perfusionists
- At least 2 Registrars/Fellows/Trainees with additional resident medical staff including interns
- ICU specialists on-site. They should be supported by registrars or junior staff (year 3 or above in training) 24 hours, seven days a week for ~~pain-ICU~~ management
- Fully trained nursing staff in operating theatres, intensive care units, wards and rehabilitation services along with dedicated nurse managers
- Physiotherapists and allied health services, and cardiac rehabilitation services
- Actively practising medical specialists in the following specialities should be available at all times for clinical consultation:
  - Cardiologists
  - Haematologists
  - General surgeons
  - Urologists
  - Respiratory physicians
  - Neurologists
  - Neurosurgeons
  - Nephrologists
  - Endocrinologist
  - Infectious diseases consultants
  - ENT specialists
  - Dental surgeons
  - Vascular surgeons
- On-call rosters for echo cardiographers, radiographers, pacemaker technician, biomedical engineers
- Audit manager, educators and data collectors.

## Support service requirements

Anae	ICU/HDU	Path	Phar	Rad
6	6	6	6	6