

NKawKaw Holy Family Hospital

By Rosemary Doogan

Nkawkaw is an important town in the Eastern Region of Ghana. It is situated on the road between Accra and Kumasi, and is considered the half-way point between these cities and transport hub for the area. It is also connected by road to the towns of Korofidua and Konongo. Nkawkaw is considered as the ' commercial city' of the Kwahus.

Nkawkaw Holy Family Hospital is a well-kept district nurse training Hospital primarily run by the sisters of the Holy Spirit Congregation with their headquarters in Holland. To date the hospital provides General/Gynaecological hospital but the authorities are looking to expand their services. The Holy Family Hospital also is predominately the focus for the care of HIV-related disease in the Kwahu District of Ghana.

The Hospital has two theatres one classed as clean (routine surgery) the second as a dirty theatre for tsurgical treatment of infected cases. Both theatres have air-conditioning.

Patients are anaesthetised on the table, predominately under regional anaesthesia although some General Anaesthetic facilities are available. . There is limited patient position equipment, and a lack of patient pillows (All this is apparent in other Hospitals in Ghana).

A re-organisation of ET tubes and facemasks, and a supply of Macintosh handles and blades is recommended. Limited manual handling equipment. Investment in pat-slide, table attachments for orthopaedics and pillows are recommended.

There is a good-sized recovery unit, which is yet to be staffed and operational. The hospital authorities have recently employed a nurse to set up these services.

The TSSU department is spacious.. There are two autoclaves in current use, and both use the drum system and linen to wrap the instruments. There are no tracking processes in place in TSSU.

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There are a few risk assessments procedures in place. The pathology department have set up needle stick injury and post exposure prophylaxis protocols. Further assessments are needed on COSHH, Health and safety and Infection Control. The Theatres also have a resource Library that has a good selection of educational books.

Overall, the view of theatres is that of being in good condition and with some re-organisation would overcome some of its weaker points. Help will be needed with putting risks assessments and protocols in place and would recommend using the NATN guidelines.

The Hospital is looking to increase its range of surgery to include major Orthopaedics and plastics, but at the moment is lacking any equipment to supply this service although they do have an air compressor. The hospital would also benefit from an orthopaedic service, as currently they have to stabilize and then transfer their trauma patients to other Hospitals.

The Holy Family currently runs a hernia operation program and would be happy for a general surgeon to visit to help reduce their waiting lists in the region.

The Hospital says that prior to any visit they will run an advertising campaign for patients to attend for surgery. Accommodation for eight is available for visiting team within the Hospital grounds, and they have Hospital transport, which can collect the teams from Accra.

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