



What to expect at a Regional Burn Unit

Transferring to a Regional Burn Unit is an important step toward recovery and returning home.

Here's what to expect:

- The Regional Burn Units are situated within plastic surgical wards. These wards have around 30 beds, and most rooms are shared.
- When a person is transferred from the National Burn Centre to a Regional Burn Unit they will usually first go into an isolation room, before moving to a shared room.
- It can take time to adjust to different staff and routines. Remember there are many ways to carry out your cares.
- Visiting policies and hours may be different to that of the National Burn Centre. The Regional Burns Unit will provide information on this.

Follow-up

The Regional Burn Units have expertise in the long term rehabilitation of burn injuries.

The Regional Burn Units are able to arrange community support services, follow-up care and any additional surgery a person may need. Getting to know the regional team while in hospital helps to build trust and understanding. This ensures the transition to outpatient care goes smoothly.

If you have questions regarding this or would like further information please talk to the staff at the National Burn Centre.

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Recovering from a burn injury

National Burn Centre Transfers

Patient Information





Regional Burn Unit

There are four Regional Burn Units in New Zealand, located at Middlemore Hospital, Waikato Hospital, Hutt Valley Hospital and Christchurch Hospital. These units all have expertise in the treatment and management of burn injuries.

National Burn Centre

Internationally, it is recognised that a dedicated centre is important to care for people with serious burns in the initial stages of their injury.

The National Burn Centre, including Kidz First Children's Hospital, is based at Middlemore Hospital in Auckland and has expertise in managing the medical and surgical needs of people during the early stages of treatment for a serious burn injury.

Transfer to the National Burn Centre

When someone has a complex burn injury, the hospital they first go to, their closest Regional Burn Unit and the National Burn Centre all work together to determine where the patient's care is best delivered. Often this means the person is transferred to the National Burn Centre at Middlemore Hospital. This is just for their initial treatment until they are well enough to return to their Regional Burn Unit.

As soon as a person is transferred, plans are developed regarding their treatment, length of stay at the National Burn Centre and anticipated transfer back to their Regional Burn Unit.

Staff at the National Burn Centre and Regional Burn Unit continue to closely liaise regarding the patient's treatment and care throughout the patient's admission. This is done through written weekly reports and multidisciplinary team teleconferences.

Transfer back to a Regional Burn Unit

After a patient's initial medical and surgical treatment is complete and they are considered medically stable, they can be transferred to their Regional Burn Unit. This is a planned process involving the patient, their family/whanau and staff at both the National Burn Centre and Regional Burn Unit.

Being transferred to a Regional Burn Unit is an important step in recovery from a burn injury. It means the patient no longer needs the same degree of intensive surgical and medical care.

Depending on where the patient lives, they may travel by ambulance or plane to their Regional Burn Unit based at Waikato, Hutt Valley or Christchurch Hospital.

