

# Heart centre of excellence at Melomed Gatesville Private Hospital

## Melomed Hospital Holdings spokesperson

THE demographics in this part of the Western Cape, reflects a rise of arteriosclerosis - the disease that clogs up the arteries.

This is according to Adele Luiters, Unit Manager of Melomed Gatesville's catheterisation laboratory. She commissioned the opening of the lab in 2005.

Melomed Gatesville's ultra modern catheterisation laboratory is equipped with a Siemens Axion Artis monoplane and flat-panel ceiling-mounted radiography C-arm.

Specialised services and procedures offered in the cathlab include vascular angiograms, stenting and embolisations.

Catheterisation involves introducing a tube into a body cavity via a groin or arm into the arteries. The radiography C-arm will X-ray the vascular system and pick up clots or bleeding in the blood vessels.

Once a blockage is located,

angiograms embed stents into artery walls. This clears blockages and resumes the natural blood flow.

Similarly, any bleeding from a vessel can also be clotted. This procedure is called embolisation.

This is a very common procedure where there is bleeding on the lungs. "We have lots of patients with pulmonary TB. With the extent of the patient's coughing, the vessels can burst.

The patient gets referred to the X-ray department where they have a CT scan. If the patient has got an excessive bleed and it can't be contained by medication, he or she will go to the cathlab where we will stop the bleeding.

"At the end of 2010, the cathlab introduced digital subtraction angiography (DSA). This is when the doctor takes X-rays to pinpoint the exact position of the aneurysm.

"This system is different to coronary angiograms in that the X-rays block out the skull bones showing up only the brain's vasculature," says Adele. "Brain



**IMPRESSIVE:** Melomed Gatesville's cardiac ICU is the largest specialised ICU in the Western Cape on a single floor.

embolisation is an intricate procedure because the vessels going to the brain are a lot smaller than the vessels elsewhere in the body. We use very small catheters to prevent the aneurysm from bursting or bleeding."

For the first time this month, the team performed a brain embolisation in the cathlab - with a highly successful outcome. Melomed Gatesville is one of seven centres in South Africa offering neuro-interventional surgery and doing

highly specialised uncommon neuro-interventions.

Melomed Gatesville's cathlab is fully supported by a state-of-the-art theatre and cardiac ICU on the same floor. This ICU is the largest specialised ICU in the Western Cape on a single floor.

The spacious, specialised 26-bed facility is equipped with the latest in medical equipment and is serviced by experienced doctors from the private healthcare industry.



**STATE OF THE ART EQUIPMENT:** The new upgraded Melomed Gatesville hospital is equipped with the latest in medical equipment and is serviced by experienced doctors from the private healthcare industry.



**CARING:** Melomed Gatesville cares about the heart of the family. To read all about its CSI project, Melohearts, see page 6.

**FREE GIFT:** Children get a free soft toy when they stay over in the paediatric ward.



## Comfort for children

THE brand new paediatric ward at Melomed Gatesville is designed to make the whole hospital experience less traumatising for children and parents. Bright colours adorn the walls while cartoon themes at the reception area makes entering the ward a cheerful experience. This gives children every opportunity to focus on something other than their illness and encourages interest in their surroundings.

Each child has access to:

A cubicle, which is cordoned off for privacy. Provision has also been made for one parent to sleep over at their child's bedside which maximises the comfort and recuperation of each child.

A television so they won't miss their favourite programmes and parents can bring in a Playstation if they wish.

Isolation rooms to provide for maximum infection control.

A new system of medical waste chutes has been introduced with a chute appropriated at each bedside. This, together with a strict staff policy of hand washing by means of Germstar's instant hand sanitisers, minimises any risk of cross contamination between patients.

A colourful play area that provides welcome distractions for those able to get out of bed. Parents' comfort is also catered for - a separate waiting room with recliner chairs allows parents to take a break and get some



**CARING:** Helen Zille (Premier, Western Cape) pays a visit to the children's ward.

rest.

### Maternity Unit

The maternity unit includes the labour wards, post natal wards, nursery and neonatal ICU.

The spacious nursery showcases a large window for relatives and family members to view the newborns. The neonatal ICU provides a specialist environment for premature infants or

ill neonates who require specialised care.

Melomed Gatesville also has a paediatric ICU ward. All mothers who give birth at Melomed Gatesville receive a Melomed bag containing nappies and a selection of baby toiletries to get them started in the first few days of motherhood. Like the adults, every paediatric patient receives a gift on admission - a backpack containing fluffly slippers and a teddy bear or soft toy to cuddle for comfort.

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO MELOMED HOSPITAL GATESVILLE ON THEIR NEW ICU UNIT**

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**GETTING YOU STARTED:** All mothers who give birth at Melomed Gatesville receive a Melomed bag containing nappies and a selection of baby toiletries to get them started in the first few days of motherhood.

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