

## Media Release

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### **New medication system boosts accuracy and security**

It's technology straight out of a Bond film – fingerprint scanning to authorise access to medication at Mackay Base Hospital.

The Pyxis system has been installed in the Emergency Department and Mental Health Inpatient Unit to more efficiently and safely dispense medication.

Director of Pharmacy Ron Nightingale said the new system helped prevent errors by ensuring the correct medication was administered to patients.

The system's name comes from the word used by ancient Greeks for a small box with a lid to hold medicine.

Staff who are authorised to access medication scan their finger print and this opens a computer screen where they can type in the medication required.

Pyxis then opens the correct drawer and compartment so the only medication that can be removed is the one prescribed.

Mr Nightingale said Pyxis offers more secure storage and provides an electronic record of who has accessed medication.

"It also means staff no longer need to keep track of keys to cupboards to access medication so it helps free up clinician time to focus on patient care.

"Previously nurses would have to look on a shelf to find the right medication and double check they have picked up the correct box or vial.

"From a pharmacy perspective there are benefits because we no longer have to manually count the amount of stock in different areas. Pyxis tells us what has been used and when stock needs to be replaced," he said.

The system will be rolled out across the hospital after its use in Emergency and Mental Health is evaluated.

**ENDS**

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