

Beds closed: the summer plan starts in hospital

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The summer plan of **reducing beds** to allow staff to enjoy their holidays is starting **tomorrow, 1 June**, at **hospitals in the Sette Laghi area**.

The plan is designed to take account of the **physiological reduction in scheduled work**, particularly in surgical operations, which occurs in the summer, and which can be seen not only on the **surgical wards, but also in other types of admission and in intensive therapy**.

In particular, for the **service in Varese**, which includes the three hospitals of **Circolo, Del Ponte and Cuasso**, about one hundred beds are planned to close. “These account for **10% of the total number of 970 beds**,” the hospitals said. The fall will be greater in the month of **July** and will have repercussions on the work of the casualty department, which is always congested.

However, after the summer, **all of the beds will open again, and another 16 will be added**; the additional beds will be in the departments of **Haematology** (2 extra, for transplants), **General Medicine II** (8 extra) and **Psychiatry**.

A significant change is the work of the **new department of Subacute Care**, which opened last December and which **will maintain its number of 30 beds throughout the summer**. Equally important is the work of **Sub-intensive Care**, which has 10 beds, which **will drop to 6 during July** and return to the full number in August.

Looking in more detail, **there will be no closures in Cuasso Hospital**, and at the **Del Ponte**, the reception capacity will be **reduced by only eleven beds in Gynaecology, from the middle of July until the beginning of September**, to coincide with the reduction in scheduled surgical work.

For the same reason, a number of beds will be closed temporarily in **the surgical area on the second, third and fourth floors of the main hospital building at the Circolo**, corresponding with the reduction in **operating room hours**. The reduction in scheduled surgery will also make the summer closure of 4 beds in Intensive Therapy possible.

None of the closures will affect the psychiatry area, which will, in fact, already have 6 extra beds at the Circolo, in July, and **the internal medicine area will suffer only small reductions**: on the fifth and sixth floors of the main hospital building, where all of the main internal medicine departments are housed, **about thirty beds will close, out of a total of more than 210**, distributed over the two floors.

There will be no significant closures for any of the other sectors, with the exception of the **Day Surgery, which will suspend its activity from 15 to 23 August**.

Concerning the **service in the Verbano area, about twenty beds, out of a total of 237**, will close; here too, this will correspond, above all, to the reduction in the scheduled surgery.

And **about fifty beds will close in Tradate Hospital**, but almost exclusively during the months of July and August.

di Translated by Prof. Rolf Cook