

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	Consultant/Specialist
Business Unit/Department:	Infectious Diseases
Division:	Cancer, Cardiology & Specialty Medicine
Award/Agreement:	Medical Specialists (Victorian Public Health Sector) (AMA Victoria/ASMOF) (Single Interest Employers) Enterprise Agreement
Classification:	HN16 – HN59
Reports To:	Head of Unit, Infectious Diseases Clinical Services Director Chief Medical Officer
Direct Reports:	Junior medical employees
Date Prepared/Updated:	24 June 2025

Position Purpose

The role of the Consultant Specialist in Infectious Diseases is to provide high quality clinical care to the patients attending Western Health, to contribute as required to Infection Prevention and Antimicrobial Stewardship activities, to supervise and train Medical Staff throughout their career pathway, to perform clinical research, and to support Western Health Strategic themes specifically by being involved in Health Services development.

Business Unit Overview

The Western Health Division of Cancer, Cardiology and Specialty Medicine provides a comprehensive suite of inpatient, clinic, and community-based care.

The Special Medicine program provides services across inpatient wards, specialty units and ambulatory care. These include:

- Sunshine inpatient wards:
 - 3E – Stroke, Neurology & General Medicine
 - 3F – Respiratory Medicine, Infectious Diseases & General Medicine
- Footscray inpatient wards:
 - 7A – Respiratory Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Gastroenterology, Nephrology and Endocrine
- Medical Ambulatory Day Unit (MADU) at both Footscray & Sunshine provides same day treatment for patients with a variety of conditions.
- Medical Diagnostics including Sleep Studies, Respiratory and Neurophysiology services.

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- Specialty Units: Respiratory & Sleep Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Rheumatology, Neurology & Stroke, Dermatology, and Gastroenterology.

The Infectious Diseases Unit provides inpatient and ambulatory care to patients with infection related illness, as well as a consultative service to other units within the health service to assist in the management of infections. This service is provided across all Western Health campuses including out of hours. The service offers inpatient and consultation services physically located at Sunshine and Footscray Hospitals and outpatient clinics at Footscray Hospital.

The Infectious Diseases Unit leads the Antimicrobial Stewardship program to optimise the use of antibiotics within the health service, as well as providing support to the Infection Prevention Department at Western Health.

The unit is involved in research activities as well education of staff and students in infectious diseases, antimicrobials and infection control. This includes medical students from the University of Melbourne, postgraduate doctors, nursing and allied health staff from Western Health. The Infectious Diseases Unit also interacts closely with the newly established Western Public Health Unit (WPHU).

The unit also supports the Diabetes Foot Service. The Diabetes Foot Service (DFS) is a multidisciplinary team with key members from Endocrinology, Vascular Surgery, Diabetes Education, Infectious Diseases and Podiatry. Western Health operates both an inpatient and outpatient DFS service. The outpatient service sits within the Chronic and Complex Care division and is led by the *Allied Health Manager, Podiatry and Diabetes Foot Service*.

Key Responsibilities

- Assume responsibility for quality patient care in accordance with the care model of the ward/unit, ensuring that clinical procedures are performed in accordance with Western Health policy and procedure
- Accurately reflect the patient's treatment plan, requirements, outcomes or events within prescribed documentation to support ongoing care, communication and to ensure that all legal requirements are met in regards to legibility of content and identity of reporter in accordance with Western Health policies and procedures
- Analyse and use data to guide decisions and evaluate outcomes
- Participate in resolving problems in care and to ensure that the Unit/ Department Head is aware of relevant issues and problems
- Participate in the development of discharge plans that reflects the needs of patients and their significant others and demonstrates understanding of the role of community providers
- Ensure continuity of care by communicating appropriately with other practitioners including community general practitioners
- Ensure awareness of clinical experience and proficiency of junior medical staff delegated to deliver care and provide supervision for and be accountable for the care delivered
- Provide consistent and appropriate leadership and supervision to Junior Medical Staff
- Ensure that the care of all patients is handed over or other suitable arrangements for follow up, including follow up of results is in place when not on call
- Lead by example in the delivery and promotion of high quality clinical care to all patients
- Participate in the development, implementation and revision of treatment protocols and clinical guidelines to promote and ensure best practice standards
- Actively contribute to Western Health's ongoing development through involvement in hospital wide activities and national and/or international organisations
- Participate in service planning as requested by the Unit/ Department Head and Clinical Service Directors including the development and setting of targets, resource requirements and improvement priorities for the service agreement
- Actively participate in departmental or organisational wide quality and credentialing processes, including clinical work review groups

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- Participate in developing department and personal priority goals and objectives consistent with the mission, philosophy and strategic plan of the organisation
- Ensure that any dealings with the media are approved and in accordance with policy, procedure and privacy legislation
- Contribute to creating and maintaining a work climate which is conducive to positive morale and employee growth, development and retention
- Ensure own health and well-being and seek assistance if impairment in physical or mental health is impacting on job performance
- Work collaboratively and respectfully with multi-disciplinary team members to achieve desired outcomes for patients through effective communication and attendance and participation in unit and site clinical meetings
- Exchange and share information from participation in seminars and conferences with colleagues via in-services, presentations, education forums, team meetings, etc.
- Build networks and participate in benchmarking to seek and share information to assist in developing best practices
- Demonstrate a caring and empathetic approach towards patients at all times
- Participate and contribute to improvement of policies, procedures and protocols and identify areas of improvement in clinical practice.
- Participate in hospital provided professional development activities and keep up to date with relevant developments in clinical and hospital practice.
- Participate in clinical teaching and professional development of junior medical staff, medical students and students of all health professions and disciplines, including involving students in clinical care
- Maintain personal qualifications in accordance with continuing certification requirements of relevant medical college or other body
- Comply with Western Health financial systems, policies and processes
- Maintain a high and accurate level of clinical and financial recording and ensure involvement in medical document audits
- Participate in departmental strategic and financial planning
- Participate in the development and monitoring of financial risk reduction and identify and implement strategies for cost control
- Identify business opportunities through available funding streams and develop and prepare business cases to optimise funding opportunities and business development
- Be accountable for length of stay meeting, exceeding state averages and for waiting list management
- Manage and operate in accordance with Western Health Human Resource policy and practise in all matters relating to recruitment and employment
- Ensure the ability to receive and return organisational relevant information and communication through phone, and/ or voicemail and email within time limits set by the organisation
- Acquire and maintain sufficient relevant computer/technology skills and utilise these to participate in services and communication offered by Western Health
- Undertake other duties and instructions as provided by the Head of Unit

In addition to the key responsibilities specific to your role, you are required to deliver on the [Key Organisational Accountabilities](#) which are aligned with the Western Health strategic aims.

Key Working Relationships

Internal:

- Other Senior Medical Staff
- Nursing and Allied Health Staff
- Patient Support and Administrative Staff
- Medical Workforce Unit Management
- Unit/ Department Heads
- Clinical Services Directors
- Divisional Directors
- Executive Director Medical Services

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External:

- GP's
- Community Health Agencies
- Other Senior Medical Staff

Selection Criteria**Essential**

- Medical qualification
- Current Australian medical registration
- Credentials for the position
- Relevant clinical experience and clinical competence required for level of position
- Experience in the support and supervision of Junior Medical Staff
- Demonstrated ability to practice collaboratively as part of a multi-disciplinary health care team
- Effective organisational skills, with respect to time management and delegation
- Well developed written and verbal communication skills
- Displays and expresses a high level of ethics in regards to patients, colleagues and the organisation
- Demonstrates skill and maturity in problem solving, negotiation and conflict resolution
- Demonstrates ability to make decisions and support rationale, clearly communicate decisions to relevant parties
- Maintains confidentiality of patient, institutional and employee information
- Commitment to professional development
- Analyses own performance in accordance with position expectations. Develops goals and implements a plan to meet those goals. Maintains and own knowledge and skills
- Participates in and contributes to committees, teams and projects in keeping with the organisation's strategic goals
- Seeks out and is receptive to feedback from co-workers at all levels for the purpose of growth in the role

Desirable

- Demonstrated research skills
- Knowledge of health issues in relation to Western Health's catchments
- Acknowledgement of Western Health strategic themes

Additional Requirements

All employees are required to:

- Obtain a police / criminal history check prior to employment
- Obtain a working with children check prior to employment (if requested)
- Obtain an Immunisation Health Clearance prior to employment
- Report to management any criminal charges or convictions you receive during the course of your employment.
- Comply with relevant Western Health clinical and administrative policies and guidelines.
- Comply with and accept responsibility for ensuring the implementation of health and safety policies and procedures.
- Fully co-operate with Western Health in any action it considers necessary to maintain a working environment, which is safe, and without risk to health.
- Protect confidential information from unauthorised disclosure and not use, disclose or copy confidential information except for the purpose of and to the extent necessary to perform your employment duties at Western Health.
- Safeguard children and young people in our care, by ensuring that your interactions are positive and safe, and report any suspicions or concerns of abuse by any person internal or external to Western Health.

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- Be aware of and comply with relevant legislation: Public Administration Act 2004, Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, the Victorian Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004, the Victorian Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (OHS Regulations 2017), Fair Work Act 2009 (as amended), the Privacy Act 1988 and responsibilities under s141 Health Services Act with regard to the sharing of health information, the Family Violence and Child Information Sharing Schemes, Part 5A and 6A Family Violence Protection Act 2008.
- Be aware of and comply with the Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees and other Western Health employment guidelines.

General Information

- Redeployment to other services and sites within Western Health may be required.
- Employment terms and conditions are provided according to relevant award/agreement.
- Western Health is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing for its employees a work environment which is free of harassment or discrimination. The organisation promotes diversity and awareness in the workplace.
- Western Health is committed to Gender Equity.
- Western Health provides support to all personnel experiencing family and domestic violence.
- This position description is intended to describe the general nature and level of work that is to be performed by the person appointed to the role. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required. Western Health reserves the right to modify position descriptions as required. Employees will be consulted when this occurs.
- Western Health is a smoke free environment.

I confirm I have read the Position Description, understand its content and agree to work in accordance with the requirements of the position.

Employee's Name: [Click here to enter the Employee's name.](#)

Employee's Signature: _____

Date: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

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