

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:	Clinical Nurse Consultant
Business Unit/Department:	Critical Care Outreach – ICU Liaison
Division:	Emergency Medicine and Intensive Care Services (EMIC)
Award/Agreement:	Nurses and Midwives (Victorian Public Sector) (Single Interest Employers) Enterprise Agreement
Classification:	Clinical Consultant C (CAPR 4.1 or 4.2)
Reports To:	Operational: Intensive Care Services Operations Manager Professionally: Director of Nursing and Midwifery
Direct Reports:	N/A
Date Prepared/Updated:	9 October 2024

Position Purpose
Critical Care Outreach – ICU Liaison Nurse The Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) will work within the area of specialisation team in the supervision, implementation and management of the specialist services and related strategic planning at Western Health. As a member of a specialist team the CNC will provide expert and evidence based direction to ensure service standards and practices related to their area of expertise are maintained and improved across all services of Western Health. As a member of the health care team, the CNC is at the forefront of the provision of high-quality nursing care to consumers on a day-to-day basis. As a professional, the CNC is accountable for : • The maintenance of their own clinical knowledge, further education and working within the confines of their specific scope of practice at all times, in accordance with the boundaries set by their experience and skill. • Ensuring that they are registered to work as a Registered Nurse in Australia at all times whilst working as a nurse within Western Health and practice in alignment with Nursing & Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) Registered Nurse Standards for Practice. The role of the CNC is working and providing advice and support to a multidisciplinary team environment to ensure an efficient program which meets the growing needs of this area of healthcare, incorporates the following activities; consumer advocacy, collaborative consumer and unit management, research, supervision and mentorship/preceptorship, interaction/liaison with multidisciplinary team, accurate and timely documentation. The CNC will contribute to providing quality health and well-being services for our consumers demonstrating proficient to expert behaviours across the five domains of leadership, research, evidence-based practice,

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education & learning and clinical expertise as identified in the Western Health Nursing and Midwifery Professional Practice Framework.	
Business Unit Overview	
The Division of Emergency Medicine and Intensive Care (EMIC) Services spans across 5 Western Health sites encompassing three emergency departments, two urgent care centres and two intensive care units. Delivering care to over 200,000 patients annually the Division is committed to innovation, the development of services and treatment of diverse population groups across Western Health to ensure Best Care for the community of Western Melbourne. The Divisional Director (DD) and the Clinical Services Director (CSD) function in partnership to provide leadership, clinical, operational and financial governance to the Division ensuring the efficient and effective delivery of Best Care within allocated resources. The Intensive Care Service at Western Health provides care to general medical/surgical adult patients, with a pre-dominant medical patient mix. There are 2 Units at separate Campuses, operating a total of 23 ICU bed equivalents. The Footscray ICU has 14 physical bed spaces, and Sunshine ICU has 13 physical bed spaces that are all specifically designed and equipped to provide physiological monitoring and life supporting therapies to patients with a critical illness. Western Health provides the only Intensive Care Units located within the western suburbs of Melbourne and is currently admitting approximately 2000 patients per annum. The ICUs accept both high dependency and intensive care patients. Intensive care patients have multi-system organ failure and/or require invasive mechanical ventilation, invasive haemodynamic monitoring, intra-aortic balloon pump or hemofiltration. High dependency patients typically have single system organ failure and are able to breathe without the assistance of invasive mechanical ventilation. Patient referrals to the service are from internal and external services, including rural and metropolitan services. The Western Health ICU Liaison Nurse Service is a component of Western Health Intensive care service, providing clinical support and consultation to staff and patients of both Footscray and Sunshine Hospitals seven days per week. The ICU Liaison Nurse Consultant (ICU LNC) demonstrates a high level of knowledge and skills facilitating learning in the clinical environment to promote the goal of delivering safe Patient care. They provides consultation, clinical support for medical, nursing and allied health staff involved in the management of patients with complex care needs and who are at risk of clinical deterioration. The ICU Liaison Nurse/ Nurse Consultant facilitates 3 Pathways that are involved with patients with risk of clinical deterioration at WH: • By assisting with the assessment of patients ready for discharge from the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and supports the care of patients on the ward who have been recently discharged from, or are waiting transfer to ICU by liaising with medical, nursing and allied health teams regarding the specific care requirements of these patients. • The ICU LNC is a key member of MET/adult code blue team in conjunction with medical teams, and supports the process of escalation of care to reduce the risk of harm to patients as a result of clinical deterioration • Provides a referral service for medical, nursing and allied health staff for patients with high acuity and special assessment and care requirements and facilitates and supports the management of these patients during the acute phase of their physiological instability or as a bridge to transfer to a critical care area. The ICU LNC Facilitates a proactive approach of identifying patients deemed at risk of deterioration through rounding. This approach raises awareness and visualisation of the service while providing critical care expertise to 'at risk' patients.	
Key Responsibilities	
	Leadership

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- Communicates information and expectations clearly and concisely in a way that builds effective and collaborative working relationships with others.
- Maintains a professional demeanour and serves as a role model for all nursing staff, both as a clinician and in line with behavioural expectations.
- Provides leadership in clinical situations demanding action.
- Take accountability for own actions and others under direction and sphere of responsibility
- Promotes a culture of innovation, education, excellence and consumer/client first focus, through policies and practices that support and recognise individual and collective team contribution.
- Demonstrates strong mentoring skills within the nursing and multidisciplinary team and supports succession planning.
- As an expert resource, provides expert clinical knowledge and direction to ensure that clinical standards, policies and procedures promote a consumer focussed model of care.
- Exhibit a high level of emotional self-control and flexibility in complex, changing, and/or ambiguous situations and when confronted with challenges
- Maintains and fosters relationships with appropriate internal and external stakeholders.
- Act as a ward representative and resource to provide a feedback loop for NUMs/MUMs, by facilitating and supporting improvement projects for the recognition and management of deteriorating patients at WH.
- Promotes the ICU liaison role within the organisation and the wider community.
- The ICU LNC is a key member of MET/adult code blue team in conjunction with medical teams, and supports the process of escalation of care to reduce the risk of harm to patients as a result of clinical deterioration.



Research

- Obtains feedback through means such as surveys to ascertain whether service standards meet stakeholder expectations and responds to any identified deficits.
- Identifies areas that require improvement through observation, audits, incidents and staff feedback and implements improvement initiatives accordingly.
- Lead quality or practice improvement initiatives at local level and/or contributes to quality or practice improvement initiatives at program or organisational level
- Apply research evidence to clinical practice, has well developed strategies to inform practice in the absence of high level evidence
- Present and publish in appropriate professional conferences and journals and remain informed of the current literature
- Members of the ICU LNC team will participate in research projects, with an aim to present this research in an oral and/or poster presentation annually



Evidence Based Practice

- Using evidence-based practice, participate in evaluation of the progress of individuals and groups towards expected outcomes and reformulation of care plans.
- Be familiar with local and organisational policies, procedures and guidelines
- Contribute to adverse event investigations, and undertake individual and team-based reflective practice
- Continuously reviews existing practices and policies according to evidence-based practice to minimise adverse, promote positive consumer outcomes and identify areas of improvement in nursing practice
- Participate in new initiatives to enhance patient and consumer outcomes and experience, or staff employment outcomes and experience
- Identifies opportunities for process redesign and to support staff in the implementation of redesign projects and activities.
- Be aware of Western Health's Strategic Priorities, and ensure activities align with these priorities
- Contribute to the development of policies, procedures and professional practice, including participation in and promotion of evidence based practice and research

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- Participates in improving policies and procedures/protocols such as lead roles in A3 quality improvement projects to review current practice.
- Promotes change practice which is evidenced based



Education & Learning

- Maintains and updates own professional development portfolio to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to learning and best practice.
- Exchange and share information from participation in seminars and conferences with colleagues via huddles, in-services, presentations, education forums, team and other meetings
- Provides education within area of extended nursing knowledge, skills & essence of nursing to multidisciplinary team members and consumers/families.
- Works with less experienced nurses to develop their capabilities.
- Promote the development of, and involvement in, professional networks and learning communities
- Develop and evaluate policy initiatives that aim to foster patient/consumer involvement and provide them with real and meaningful choices about treatment options
- Promote an atmosphere conducive to learning by attending/presenting at conferences relevant to the speciality of expertise annually
- Seeks opportunities to present at conferences and remain informed of current literature
- Facilitate multi-disciplinary team members wishing to shadow the service.



Clinical expertise

- In a consulting capacity, provides clinical nursing expertise and direction in line with clinical standards policies and procedures to both internal and external customers, including providing high level nursing assessment, care planning and interventions/procedures.
- Is responsible for a timely response to referrals and manages and provides assistance to others in prioritisation and completion of tasks such as completion of necessary statistical data, including entry to support financial recuperation as appropriate.
- Act as a primary resource in relevant area and ensure the provision of high quality, culturally sensitive consumer care in partnership with consumers, their significant others and other members of the multidisciplinary care team
- Provides an efficient and customer focussed service commensurate with senior status and role. Analyses situations and make appropriate decisions in a timely manner that meets the needs of consumers, staff and organisation.
- Act to ensure safety by managing clinical risk and intervene, as necessary, to achieve optimal outcomes for patients/consumers and teams
- Represents clinical specialty in multidisciplinary working groups
- Contributes to a Quality and Business Plan as required in accordance with the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards and Western Health Guidelines

The ICU Nurse Consultant is expected to provide the following on a continuing basis:

- ICU LNCs will rotate between both the Footscray and Sunshine campuses including JKWC
- Works within the MET System and facilitates the management of these patients in the acute phase in the home clinical area or as a bridge to transfer to ICU.
- The ICU LNC is a key member of MET/adult code blue team in conjunction with medical teams, and supports the process of escalation of care to reduce the risk of harm to patients as a result of clinical deterioration.
- Provides follow up post MET to ensure patient stability.
- Provides the primary Nursing response for Adult code Blue activations at both Footscray and Sunshine Hospitals
- Provide rounding throughout the hospitals including wards, Mental Health units ED, Operating Theatre, Maternity/Birthing areas where patients may deteriorate, at least once per shift.

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- Work in collaboration with the Critical Care Outreach Team - Medical Clinical Lead
- Act as a ward representative and resource to provide a feedback loop for NUMs/MUMs, by facilitating and supporting improvement projects for the recognition and management of deteriorating patients at WH.
- Provide support to high level care area in birthing at Sunshine Hospital.
- Assist in the implementation of practises and procedures related to the specialist area of expertise within each service at Western Health.
- Assist clinical areas by providing clinical support as required
- Liaise with the multidisciplinary team in planning, implementation and evaluation of patient management and practise in clinical rounds.
- Liaise with the ICU multi-disciplinary team to ensure appropriate discharge planning and follow up review is provided as necessary.
- Design, collect, analyse and disseminates surveillance data on special related key performance indicators and undertake further investigation where needed.

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:

- Director of Nursing and Midwifery
- Divisional Director
- Clinical Service Director
- Operations Manager
- Heads of Units
- Medical staff
- Nurse Unit Manager
- Nursing staff

External:

- Consumers, Next of Kin or Enduring Power Attorney
- General practitioners and broader Western Health Community Partners

Selection Criteria

Essential

- Current registration as a Registered Nurse with AHPRA
- Experience working in a senior clinical role (CNS or above).
- Have completed or be working towards a Masters in Nursing or Post Graduate Diploma in area of specialty
- Demonstrated ability to deliver quality consumer care and possession of excellent clinical skills
- Demonstrated experience working effectively independently and also within a multidisciplinary team environment with minimal supervision
- Demonstrated time management, organisation and planning skills
- High level verbal and written communication skills
- Experience in the use of technology to create clear and concise documents, reports and proficiency with the Microsoft Office suite
- Demonstrated commitment to developing and improving personal education and skills appropriate to the position
- Demonstrated competency and knowledge to effectively undertake basic health care education.
- Experience in the development, implementation and review of policy, procedures and guidelines.
- Current Victorian driver's license.

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Desirable • Evidence of prior service delivery planning • Demonstrated knowledge of quality management and improvement methodologies • Demonstrated experience in research projects and publication of research activities. • Training and experience in the development and delivery of education programs to consumers, carers, the community and health professionals.
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 • 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, Safe Patient Care Act 2015, Mental Health & Wellbeing Act 2023 • 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 or 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.](#)

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Employee's Signature:

Date:

Click here to
enter a
date.

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