

Position Description

Position title	Head of Unit – Clinical Pharmacology
Department / Division	Clinical Pharmacology, General Medicine / Medicine
Classification	As per the Medical Specialists (Victorian Public Health Sector) (AMA Victoria/ASMOF) (Single Interest Employers) Enterprise Agreement 2022 – 2026
Position reports to	Director of General Medicine
No. of direct & indirect reports	Direct reports: 4
Location	The Royal Children's Hospital, Flemington Road, Parkville
Risk category	Category A - works in a direct patient contact role and has or potential to have exposure to blood or body fluids.

The Royal Children's Hospital
The Royal Children's Hospital's (RCH) vision is <i>a world where all kids thrive</i>. RCH is located within the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct, with more than 45 world-class biomedical organisations and more than 50,000 of the brightest minds working together to make the Precinct number one in the Asia Pacific region for health, education, research, and training. Within this, RCH is also a cornerstone member of the Melbourne Children's Campus, partnering with Murdoch Children's Research Institute, The University of Melbourne Department of Paediatrics and The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation. Each organisation contributes to a paediatric academic health centre which is greater than the sum of its parts. RCH has cared for the children and young people of Victoria for more than 150 years since it was founded in 1870. A full range of paediatric and adolescent health services are provided plus tertiary and quaternary care for the most critically ill and medically complex patients in Victoria, Tasmania, southern NSW and other states around Australia and overseas. The RCH is the only provider of heart transplant services and CAR T-cell therapy for paediatrics in Australia. RCH is an effective advocate for patients and their families with a particular focus on vulnerable children and increasingly, mental health in young people. The hospital also supports many health promotion and prevention programs. The Hospital has more than 6,000 staff, a budget of \$850M, 12 wards and 350 beds. Annually, the RCH has 300,000+ Specialist Clinic appointments, 90,000+ Emergency Department presentations and 20,000 elective surgeries. We work collaboratively with hospitals to deliver the right care, in the right place, at the right time. The RCH is committed to the Child Safe Standards https://www.rch.org.au/quality/child-safety/. RCH enjoys high employee engagement and is committed to staff safety and a positive culture through enactment of our Compact. Further information on RCH is available at www.rch.org.au

ROLE PURPOSE

Clinical Pharmacology at RCH sits within the General Medicine department, supports the safe, effective, and evidence-based use of medicines in children. The team provides expert advice on complex drug therapy, adverse reactions, and dosing, while contributing to guideline development, quality improvement, and education. Through collaboration, research, and clinical leadership, Clinical Pharmacology promotes best practice in paediatric prescribing and advances medication safety across the hospital.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

Clinical Services - Inpatients

- Participation in the inpatient and outpatient clinical activities of the Department, including after hours on-call when required
- Responsibility for management of inpatients and outpatients referred to Clinical Pharmacology.
- Lead ward round discussions with the clinical pharmacology fellows encouraging them to actively participate in care and clinical decision making
- Manage the Clinical Pharmacology duties including investigator responsibility for clinical trials (APPRU), drug usage committee (DUC), adverse drug reactions (ADR), toxicology, drug trials subcommittee (DTSC), therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM), and medication safety
- Work in partnership with other medical, nursing and allied health professionals in providing world class services for paediatric patients
- Liaison with parents/carers re procedures and plans regarding medical care
- Ensure adequate documentation of ward rounds, treatment plans and outcomes in patient history
- Ensure discharge summaries are prepared in a timely manner to enhance continuity of care

Non-Clinical

- Managerial oversight of Clinical Pharmacology service
- Timely and accurate completion of patient related documentation, including EMR encounters, outpatient documentation, oversight of expedient discharge summary completion, and any other required documentation relevant to enhancing continuity of care

Quality

- Utilise information systems to enable informed decision making and care planning
- Actively participate in risk management and quality programs to improve organisational processes and own practices

Education

- Undertake continuing education opportunities to foster safe clinical practice, quality initiative and research
- Undertake supervision and education within the clinical environment of Fellows, Registrars, Residents, Undergraduate medical students and other relevant staff to foster safe clinical practice (where applicable)

Performance Review

- Participate in self-reflective practice, and yearly PDAPs

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Essential:

- MBBS
- FRACP with accreditation in Clinical Pharmacology
- Specialist Registration with AHPRA and eligibility for medical registration within Victoria

Desirable:

- Previous experience delivering inpatient care at a tertiary hospital

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

- Relevant clinical experience and training in acute paediatrics in an inpatient setting, gained via a senior consultant role post FRACP
- Demonstrated commitment to excellence in patient care
- Demonstrated commitment to continuous improvement and quality in the healthcare setting
- Highly evolved communication skills with demonstrated ability to build and maintain working relationships within a team-based environment
- Commitment to and demonstrated ability in medical education and teaching
- Capacity to be geographically located full time and nearby RCH when on-call
- Ability to balance competing demands and conflicting priorities

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Employees are required to undertake a National Criminal Record Check and a Working with Children Check prior to commencing employment
- Employees are required to maintain a valid Working with Children Check throughout their employment
- A current, full driver's licence for the State of Victoria which is appropriate for the type of vehicle being driven, and comply with any restrictions on their licence (e.g. wearing glasses) while undertaking hospital duties (If applicable)
- Employees are required to maintain compliance with RCHs "Staff Immunisation - Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Diseases" procedure

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

All employees are required to adhere to the Royal Children's Hospital Values:

- Curious - We are creative, playful and collaborative
- Courageous - We pursue our goals with determination, ambition and confidence
- Inclusive - We embrace diversity, communicate well, build connections and celebrate our successes together
- Kind - We are generous, warm and understanding

RCH COMPACT

All new and existing employees commit to the RCH Compact to contribute to a strong and respectful culture.

- We do better work caring for children and families when we also care for each other
- I bring a positive attitude to work – I share, I laugh, I enjoy other's company
- I take responsibility for my behaviour and its impact on others
- I am curious and seek out ways to constantly learn and improve
- I celebrate the good stuff, the small stuff, the big stuff – it all matters
- I speak up when things aren't right
- I value the many different roles it takes to deliver great patient care

- I actively listen because I want to understand others and make better decisions
- I am inclusive and value diversity
- When it comes to teamwork, I don't hold back – I'm all in

QUALITY, SAFETY AND IMPROVEMENT

RCH employees have a responsibility and accountability to contribute to the organisation's commitment to Quality, Safety and Improvement by:

- Acting in accordance and complying with all relevant Safety and Quality policies and procedures
- Identifying risks, reporting and being actively involved in risk mitigation strategies
- Participating in and actively contributing to quality improvement programs
- Complying with the requirements of the National Safety & Quality Health Service Standards
- Complying with all relevant clinical and/or competency standards
- Complying with the principles of Patient and Family Centred Care that relate to this position

The RCH is committed to a diverse and inclusive workforce. We encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, all members of the LGBTIQI community and people with disability.

Position description last updated

October 2025