

Position Description

Position title	Paediatric Intensive Care Consultant		
Department / Division	Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU)		
Classification	HM33Z-HM41Z	Employment Status	1.0 EFT, ongoing On-call as rostered
Position reports to	Director of PICU		
No. of direct & indirect reports	N/A		
Location	The Royal Children's Hospital, Flemington Road, Parkville		

The Royal Children's Hospital
<p>The Royal Children's Hospital's (RCH) vision is <i>A world where all kids thrive</i>.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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/.</p> <p>RCH enjoys high employee engagement and is committed to staff safety and a positive culture through enactment of our Compact.</p> <p>Further information on RCH is available at www.rch.org.au</p>

ROLE PURPOSE
<p>The Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne (RCH) has approximately 1800 infants and children admitted each year, representing all medical and surgical paediatric subspecialties. The unit has a high acuity, with 80% of admissions requiring respiratory support. In addition to providing tertiary PICU services for Victoria and Tasmania, several national programmes are catered for, including heart transplantation, long-term VAD, surgical treatment of Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome and intestinal transplantation.</p>

A large proportion of the workload (40-45% of patients) arises from the cardiac services programme, providing cardiac surgery to Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and the Northern Territory. Emergency and elective patients are admitted from within the RCH and external emergencies from Victoria and neighbouring states are predominantly admitted via the Paediatric Infant and Perinatal Emergency Retrieval Service (PIPER). Rarely, PICU staff will be required to participate in the off-site management of highly complex paediatric ICU patients and may assist in the stabilization of the patient during transport (e.g. interstate ECMO retrievals, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, compassionate reverse retrievals). PICU also provides the inpatient Medical Emergency Team (MET) service as well as an Outreach Service to the hospital wards and a preadmission consultation for children with complex care needs.

The ICU consultant will have overall responsibility for the care of critically ill children when on service, and will assist their colleagues with the smooth day-to-day running of the unit. In consultation with the Director of ICU, the ICU consultant will also have specific non-clinical responsibilities at other times, to include education and high fidelity and scenario-based training of clinical staff.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

Clinical

- Supervision and support of Junior Medical Staff
- Assist with and perform ICU practical procedures
- Co-ordinate and on occasions deliver paediatric retrievals
- Take responsibility for MET calls, and participate in major trauma calls
- Co-ordinate elective and emergency admissions in consultation with senior nursing staff
- Ensure accurate documentation at all times
- Ensure excellent liaison with RCH and external stakeholders at all times

Non-clinical

- Leading role in clinical governance of PIPER Paediatrics
- Leading role in education and training of staff for PIPER Paediatrics and PICU
- Role in education and training of staff including in the formal medical teaching programme
- Mentorship and supervision of Junior Medical Staff
- Contribution to nursing and allied health education
- Contribution to Audit and Quality Improvement programme as well as Mortality and Mortality meetings
- Other projects in consultation with the Director of Intensive Care

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Essential:

- Current registration as a Medical Practitioner with AHPRA
- Specialist qualification in Intensive Care Medicine (FCICM or equivalent)
- Extensive experience in the stabilisation and emergency care of critically ill patients
- Extensive experience in paediatric emergency retrieval

Desirable:

- An active interest in information technology and novel uses of technology in the ICU

- Completion or enrolment in higher research degree at masters or doctoral level
- Demonstrated experience performing and interpreting complex congenital echocardiography and/or eligibility for CICM cardiac ultrasound assessor role
- Substantial experience managing paediatric and adult intensive care patients at Quaternary ICU level
- Substantial experience managing the longitudinal rehabilitation of long-stay ICU patients
- Presentation at scientific meetings
- Publications in peer-reviewed journals
- Previous experience working at the PICU, RCH, Melbourne

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

- Demonstrated clinical experience managing quaternary level paediatric and adult ICU patients including complex congenital heart disease, trauma & neurocritical care, oncology, bone marrow transplants and solid organ transplant recipients
- Demonstrated experience in paediatric retrieval
- Demonstrated experience in education/training of JMS ideally including scenario-based training of clinical staff
- Commitment to continuing education and professional development
- Strong organising and planning skills with the ability to change priorities accordingly
- Ability to work effectively within and contribute to a professional multi-disciplinary team environment
- Well-developed interpersonal, communication and presentation skills

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 LGBTQI community and people with disability.

Position description last updated

July 2025