

Position Description

Position title	Sleep Scientist
Department / Division	Respiratory and Sleep Medicine
Classification	Grade 1 Medical Scientist (RX1-RX7)
Position reports to	Operational: Chief Sleep Scientist Professional: Head of Sleep Medicine
No. of direct & indirect reports	N/A
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 *"A world where all kids thrive"*.

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 CONTEXT

The Sleep Medicine Service is embedded within the Department of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine Service in the Division of Medicine of the hospital. It serves to provide accurate and detailed assessment of sleep disorders through

provision of polysomnography (sleep studies) to aid in the clinical management of children of all ages in both in-hospital and hospital in the home setting.

ROLE PURPOSE

The Sleep Technologist is responsible for facilitating sleep studies within the sleep medicine service. The sleep technician is expected to make appropriate changes to ventilation or supplemental oxygen as per the established procedures and protocols.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

Provision of Care

- Provide technical management to two children undergoing sleep studies.
- Set up and maintain accurate positioning of electrodes and sensors to ensure adequate sleep and respiratory data are recorded.
- Ensure all data is adequately obtained overnight and transferred to the appropriate storage location.
- Remove and clean electrodes and sensors in the morning, ensuring adherence to infection control processes.
- Participate in and successfully complete training as directed by senior staff.
- Be familiar with treatment protocols relevant to the individual Department and other designated units within RCH
- Maintain clinical documentation, records and data as per discipline specific guidelines and RCH procedures
- Provide clinical handover to required standard
- Actively contribute to continuous improvement

Lifelong Learning

- Participate in professional development activities to ensure that best clinical practice is maintained
- Engage in training provided by the hospital and ensure achievement of competency in departmental skills.
- Identify personal and professional development needs, and plan and implement strategies for achieving them
- Achieve and maintain competency in relevant skills in line with departmental requirements relevant to the role

Collaborative practice

- Work effectively as part of the Sleep Medicine team to support high-quality patient care.
- Provide child centred, family focused care through partnership with parents/ families
- Work in collaboration with multidisciplinary teams
- Cooperate and work well with others in the pursuit of team goals
- Actively participate as part of a team to ensure ongoing excellence in service delivery and contribute to continuous improvement

Communication

- Apply well-developed verbal communication and interpersonal skills and attention to detail with the ability to interact with a variety of stakeholders
- Communicate effectively with patients and families to ensure their understanding and that their needs and views are included in plans and actions
- Recognise issues that may lead to conflict, and constructively address issues as they arise with escalation to senior clinicians as appropriate

Continuous Improvement

- With support, identify concerns about systems or processes and raises these with supervisor or manager
- Actively contribute to continuous improvement activities within the Sleep Medicine service.

- Comply with safety, quality, and risk management procedures.
- Complete clinical and technical tasks in accordance with RCH policies, procedures, and infection control expectations.

Supervision, Leadership and People Management

- Participate in clinical supervision in accordance with local standard operating procedures and/or the RCH Allied Health Clinical Supervision Guideline which are based on the DHHS Allied Health Clinical Supervision Framework
- Seek supervision and guidance from senior staff when required.
- Contribute positively to the learning environment.

Organisation and Planning

- Apply developed organisational skills to manage workload and competing clinical demands.
- Maintain administrative housekeeping including filing systems and general departmental tasks.

Research

- Understand the principles of evidence-based practice
- Evaluate current practice with respect to the evidence
- Find, critically review, evaluate & interpret literature and apply to current role/service
- Support a research culture and agenda
- Share evidence appropriately (e.g., presents at journal club, special interest groups)

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Essential:

- Bachelor of Applied Science or Bachelor of Science (or recognised overseas equivalent).
- Ability to work effectively within a team environment.
- Demonstrated technical aptitude relevant to sleep studies.
- Computer literacy in word processing programs and databases.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Professional demeanour in interactions with internal and external stakeholders.

Desirable:

- Significant experience working in a paediatric sleep unit.
 - Significant ventilation experience with CPAP or non-invasive ventilation.
- Minimum 3 years' experience within paediatric or youth health services.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

- Relevant technical skills for sleep studies and CPAP titration.
- Excellent professional, interprofessional, interaction and self-reflection skills to enable effective work with people of different personalities and backgrounds
- The ability to engage children of different ages and abilities
- Ability to advocate for patients and their families
- An ability to balance sometimes competing and conflicting priorities
- Excellent computer literacy 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
- 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

April 2026