Position Description

Senior Physiotherapist - Spine Clinics

Classification:	Physiotherapist Grade 3 (VB7 - VC1)
Business unit/department:	Physiotherapy/ Neurosurgery / Orthopaedics
Work location:	Austin Hospital ☒ Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital ☒ Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre ☐ Other ☐ (please specify)
Agreement:	Allied Health Professionals (Victorian Public Health Sector) Single Interest Enterprise Agreement 2021-2026
Employment type:	Fixed-Term Part-Time
Hours per week:	15.2 (Friday required)
Reports to:	Senior (G4) APPs – Spine Clinics (Neurosurgery/Orthopaedics) Manager of Physiotherapy Stream Leader Physiotherapy Outpatients
Direct reports:	Nil
Financial management:	Budget: Nil
Date:	November 2026

Position purpose

This is a Fixed-Term, Part-Time (0.4 EFT) 2x days per week – from November 2026 to July 2027 Friday APP Clinic (required), with some flexibility on the 2nd day.

Role Purpose:

- Undertaking local training and credentialling across our APP Spine Clinics program
- Assess spinal presentations referred to Spine Clinics (Neurosurgery/Orthopaedics) and triaged for the Advanced Physiotherapy Practice (APP) pathway
- Collaborate with the Spine Clinics (Neurosurgery/Orthopaedics) team to arrange investigations and assist clinical decision making in the management of spinal presentations
- Communicate assessment findings and recommend management plans to referring doctors and colleagues within the Spine Clinics
- Provide specialist clinical care to musculoskeletal outpatients through our Physiotherapy outpatient programs

- Support and mentor more junior physiotherapists within the Musculoskeletal / Orthopaedic outpatient setting

About the Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic and Physiotherapy Departments

Both Austin Neurosurgery and the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery have dedicated Spinal Surgery teams that manages a wide variety of spinal presentations including trauma, radiculopathy and complex spinal cases. The head of the Orthopaedic Spine Surgery Unit is Mr Gerald Quan, an Australian and International Fellowship-trained consultant orthopaedic surgeon specializing exclusively in spinal surgery. Mr Gus Gonzalvo is the current directly of Neurosurgery. We currently have six Advanced Physiotherapy Practice (APP) clinicians working across our Spine clinics (Neurosurgery / Orthopaedics)

The Physiotherapy Department comprises approximately 112 EFT staff at the Austin Hospital, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital and the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre. Clinical A physiotherapy clinical service is provided seven days per week, 12 hours per day to acute and aged care inpatient areas as well as outpatient and community services. There is a seven-day primary care service for musculoskeletal injuries in the Emergency Department.

The Physiotherapy Outpatients service provides care at the Health and Rehabilitation Centre (HRC), this includes individual assessment / treatment and a variety of evidence-based group treatment sessions in both our gym and aquatic treatment areas. The service has strong partnerships across Orthopaedics, Neurosurgery and the Emergency Department at Austin Health, including several imbedded Advanced Physiotherapy Practice positions.

Position responsibilities

Role Accountabilities:

Patient Care

- Appropriately assess patients streamed to the APP pathway of our Spine Clinics (Neurosurgery/Orthopaedics)
- Identify, document and evaluate assessment findings, management plans, patient goals and clinic outcomes within the relevant APP Spine Clinic
- Communicate assessment findings, management plans and patient outcomes with referring doctors and other health professionals involved in the patients' care
- Facilitate timely access to Spine Clinic consultants when surgical consideration may be indicated
- Ensure all clinical risks and complications are identified and reviewed directly with the relevant senior Spine Clinic APP and/or medical team
- Support and direct patients assessed as not requiring surgery to suitable, evidence-based spinal pain interventions
- Remain current with assessment and management options relevant to spinal presentations at Austin Health
- Act as a clinical resource for health professionals working within the Spine clinics
- Provide high quality, patient centred, evidence based clinical care to Physiotherapy Outpatients
- Model best-practice, advanced musculoskeletal physiotherapy in the provision of outpatient care
- Undertake comprehensive physiotherapy assessment and consultation regarding complex clinical care relevant to Outpatient Physiotherapy
- Act as a clinical resource for physiotherapy colleagues in the Physiotherapy Outpatients Department

Credentialing and Scope of Clinical Practice

- Work alongside our Senior (G4) Spine Clinic APPs to complete local APP credentialling
  NB: Credentialling will be undertaking "On the Job" following commencement in the role

Selection criteria

Essential skills and experience:

- Demonstrated specialist knowledge of assessment and clinical reasoning skills including differential diagnosis for peripheral and spinal musculoskeletal conditions
- Significant clinical experience in the provision of outpatient musculoskeletal physiotherapy
- Excellent communication, organisation and problem-solving skills
- Capacity to contribute positively to enhancing the physiotherapy outpatients team culture and learning environment
- Commitment to physiotherapy professional development – musculoskeletal / spinal pain
- Sound understanding of information technology including clinical systems and applications
- Post Graduate Masters in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy (nearly completed or completed)

Desirable but not essential:

- Exposure / experience in an Advanced Practice Physiotherapy Position

Professional qualifications and registration requirements

- Current physiotherapy registration in Australia with AHPRA

Quality, safety and risk – all roles

All Austin Health employees are required to:

- Maintain a safe working environment for yourself, colleagues and members of the public by following organisational safety, quality and risk policies and guidelines.
- Escalate concerns regarding safety, quality and risk to the appropriate staff member, if unable to rectify yourself.
- Promote and participate in the evaluation and continuous improvement processes.
- Comply with the principles of person-centered care.
- Comply with requirements of National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards and other relevant regulatory requirements.

Other conditions – all roles

All Austin Health employees are required to:

- Adhere to Austin Health's core values: *our actions show we care, we bring our best, together we achieve, and we shape the future.*
- Comply with the Austin Health's Code of Conduct policy, as well as all other policies and procedures (as amended from time to time).
- Comply with all Austin Health mandatory training and continuing professional development requirements.
- Provide proof of immunity to nominated vaccine preventable diseases in accordance with Austin Health's immunisation screening policy.
- Work across multiple sites as per work requirements and/or directed by management.

General information

Cultural safety
Austin Health is committed to cultural safety and health equity for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People. We recognise cultural safety as the positive recognition and celebration of cultures. It is more than just the absence of racism or discrimination, and more than cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity. It empowers people and enables them to contribute and feel safe to be themselves.

Equal Opportunity Employer
We celebrate, value, and include people of all backgrounds, genders, identities, cultures, bodies, and abilities. We welcome and support applications from talented people identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, people with disability, neurodiverse people, LGBTQIA+ and people of all ages and cultures.

Austin Health is a child safe environment
We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. Austin Health has zero tolerance for any form of child abuse and commits to protect children. We take allegations of abuse and neglect seriously and will make every effort to mitigate and respond to risk in line with hospital policy and procedures.