

# Position Description

## Registrar in Clinical Toxicology

<b>Classification:</b>	As per DIT agreement
<b>Business unit/department:</b>	Emergency Department / Clinical Toxicology
<b>Work location:</b>	Austin Hospital <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (please specify)
<b>Agreement:</b>	AMA Victoria - Victorian Public Health Sector - Doctors in Training Enterprise Agreement 2022-2026
<b>Employment type:</b>	Fixed Term Full-Time or Part-Time
<b>Hours per week:</b>	Up to 43
<b>Reports to:</b>	Shaun Greene (Toxicology)
<b>Direct reports:</b>	N/A
<b>Financial management:</b>	Budget: B0002
<b>Date:</b>	June 2026

### Position purpose

#### CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

The position of registrar in clinical toxicology is a specialist fixed term 6-month position accredited for advance special skills term training with ACEM. The registrar in clinical toxicology is responsible for providing care for acutely poisoned patients presenting to the Austin Hospital, managing inpatients and providing telephone consultation advice in conjunction with the Victorian Poisons Information Centre (VPIC). The position is supervised by consultants in clinical toxicology.

The main aim of the rotation is to provide the trainee with specialised knowledge and skills to enable them to manage poisoned patients. Trainees will gain knowledge and skills in three main areas.

1. Clinical knowledge / examination skills: To attain knowledge and skills enabling independent management of common ED poisoning presentations.
  - Resuscitation
  - Decontamination
  - Provision of specific antidotes
  - Provision of appropriate supportive care
  - Utilisation of extracorporeal techniques
  - Recognition of the contribution of patient co-morbidities
  - Assessment and initial management of psychiatric co-morbidities

- Disposition planning
- Management of the poisoned patient requiring care in a critical care setting including the Intensive care Unit
- Management of victims of chemical exposures including terrorist attacks
- Management of chronic poisoning including environmental and occupational exposures
- Management of envenomation
- Management of drug and alcohol withdrawal states

Knowledge acquisition will be facilitated through:

- One-to-one bedside teaching with senior members of the clinical toxicology team
- A dedicated weekly 30-60 minute teaching session with one of the senior members of the clinical toxicology team. These sessions aim to cover (at a minimum) all of the designated expert topics within the ACEM part II curriculum.
- VPIC case referrals, call reviews and discussion.
- Clinical Governance and educational meetings.
- Toxicology Forums.
- Presentation of a topic or case report at one of the toxicology forums.
- Self-directed learning.

**Research / Publication:** The Registrar in clinical toxicology will be encouraged to publish one scientific abstract or paper related to clinical toxicology during the 6-month term.

**Administration:** Gain a working knowledge of the concepts underlying clinical governance and quality assurance regarding the services provided by VPIC and clinical toxicology.

It is expected that after completion of the rotation the trainee will possess sufficient knowledge to pass the toxicology section of the part II FACEM examination.

## EMERGENCY MEDICINE

- Provide clinical assessment and management of patients presenting to the Emergency Department as part of a multidisciplinary team
- Work collaboratively with nursing staff, allied health, senior medical staff and inpatient teams to assess patients, develop management plans and determine appropriate disposition.
- Develop advanced clinical skills through supervised practice, education and training, contributing to a culture of shared learning and clinical excellence within the department.
- Contribute to a supportive team environment by assisting colleagues, supervising junior staff and participating in team-based clinical decision-making.
- Advocate for patients and their families, ensuring care is coordinated, patient-centred and delivered in collaboration with the broader healthcare team.
- Participate in non-clinical registrar opportunities within the department, including portfolios in operations, education, research and quality and safety, supporting broader departmental improvement and leadership development.
- Support the effective functioning of the Emergency Department through respectful collaboration with Austin Health departments, community services and external stakeholders.



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## About the Directorate/Division/Department

### About the Clinical Toxicology Service

Toxicology services at the Austin Hospital are comprised of the Victorian Poisons Information Centre (VPIC) and the clinical toxicology service which work in close collaboration with the Austin Hospital Emergency Department.

VPIC provides specialist poisons information to health service providers and members of the public throughout Victoria. The VPIC works closely with Poison Information Centre's (PICs) throughout Australia and New Zealand, and participates in an overnight roster, providing national on-call services. Nationally credentialed clinical toxicologists based at the Austin Hospital and Monash Health Hospitals provide medical support.

The clinical toxicology service is comprised of clinicians from the Emergency Department within the Austin Hospital. All of these clinicians have an active interest in clinical toxicology and significant experience in providing care for acutely poisoned patients. They provide an on-call service for poisoned patients presenting to the Austin ED or transferred to the Austin Hospital for specialist toxicology and critical care services. Clinical toxicology clinicians also provide outpatient services for patients with chronic and occupational-related poisonings.

The Victorian Poisons Information Centre (VPIC) commenced operation in 1962. It was located at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH), Melbourne from 1976 to 2008. In August 2008 VPIC relocated to the Emergency Department at the Austin Hospital, to integrate with the clinical toxicology service.

VPIC provides members of the Victorian public with information about:

- First aid in the event of poisoning, suspected poisoning, bites and stings, mistakes with medicines etc.
- The need for medical assessment
- Prevention of poisoning
- Referral to other information sources

VPIC provides health professionals with information about:

- The ingredients in products involved in poisoning or exposure
- Assessment of the severity of a poisoning or exposure
- Potential toxic effects from a poisoning or exposure
- Treatment and management advice.

VPIC is one of four Poisons Information centres within Australia. It operates Monday to Friday (0800 to 2130 hours), and Saturday and Sunday (0800 to 2100 hours). Outside these times, calls are diverted to the New South Wales Poisons Information Centre, which operates on a 24-hour basis. VPIC works approximately 80 overnight shifts (12 midnight to 0600 hours) per year, to assist the other Poisons Information centres in taking calls from across Australia.

VPIC enjoys a close day-to-day working relationship with the toxicology registrar, toxicology fellow and the clinical toxicology consultants. VPIC staff refer difficult or complex cases to the toxicology registrar, fellow or the on-call clinical toxicology consultant for advice. Call escalation follows established referral criteria.



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VPIC also has access to a range of other consultants (clinical pharmacologists, mycologists and botanists), who can provide specialist advice if needed.

The clinical toxicology service provides consultative and inpatient care for over 1000 acutely poisoned patients per year.

## About the Emergency Department

The Austin Emergency Department is one of Melbourne's busiest tertiary EDs, seeing approximately 90,000 patients annually across adult and paediatric services. The department is currently undergoing significant expansion, with new clinical areas and models of care being developed.

As part of Austin Health, a large tertiary hospital with comprehensive medical and surgical specialties on site, the ED offers registrars exposure to the full spectrum of emergency medicine presentations within a collaborative, multidisciplinary environment. Training is supported by experienced Emergency Physicians, with a strong culture of teaching, teamwork and clinical excellence.

The department is accredited for 24 months of Emergency Medicine training and offers a broad range of clinical and non-clinical development opportunities. In addition to ED, ICU and anaesthetic rotations, registrars can undertake Special Skills terms and contribute to portfolios in education, research, operations and quality and safety.

Austin ED provides dedicated adult and paediatric streams, supporting completion of the ACEM paediatric logbook. The department also has one of Melbourne's largest Short Stay Units, offering extensive experience in observation medicine and disposition decision-making, as well as a strong focus on point-of-care ultrasound with in-house training.

Registrars work a rotating roster including day, evening and night shifts, with no on-call requirement while rostered in ED. Emergency Physicians are on site from 0800-2300 daily, with overnight consultant on-call support.

Registrars receive five hours of protected paid education each week, including simulation, procedural workshops, patient safety meetings and interdisciplinary training. There are well-being initiatives, in house peer support program and a mentoring program to help support all staff.

Austin ED is a dynamic, supportive and high-performing department, with significant workforce growth over the next 3-5 years creating strong opportunities for registrars to transition into FACEM roles within the service.

## 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.



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## 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.



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