

Position Description

Grade 3 Physiotherapist, Vestibular

Classification:	Grade 3 (VB7 to VC1)
Business unit/department:	Physiotherapy
Work location:	Austin Hospital <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (please specify)
Agreement:	Allied Health Professionals (Victorian Public Health Sector) Single Interest Enterprise Agreement 2021-2026
	Choose an item.
	Choose an item.
Employment type:	Part-Time
Hours per week:	8
Reports to:	Manager of Physiotherapy and Non-Admitted Executive Clinical Lead/Outpatient Physiotherapy Stream Leader
Direct reports:	Nil
Financial management:	Budget: 0
Date:	April 2026

Austin Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which Austin Health operates, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Position purpose

- To independently assess and manage patients presenting with vertigo, dizziness, and balance disorders related to vestibular dysfunction
- Deliver care within an outpatient setting using advanced clinical reasoning and evidence-based vestibular rehabilitation approaches
- Identify and respond to clinical red flags, ensuring safe and timely escalation of care when required
- Provide high-quality, patient-centred care with a focus on accurate assessment and effective treatment outcomes
- Operate with a high level of autonomy within scope of practice

About the Department

The Physiotherapy Department comprises about 112 EFT staff at the Austin Hospital, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, and the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre. It provides seven days per week, 12 hours per day services to acute and aged care areas. There is also a seven day a week primary care service for soft tissue 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 embedded Advanced Physiotherapy Practice positions.

Within the Physiotherapy Outpatient Department, you will work in a supportive and progressive team environment with highly skilled and experienced colleagues. The vestibular outpatient physiotherapist (0.2 EFT) provides care to a variety of presentations managed under Austin Health specialty services due to inner ear conditions including (but not exclusively) BPPV, acoustic neuroma, unilateral or bilateral peripheral vestibular dysfunction, Meniere's disease, mild head trauma and vestibular migraine involving dizziness, vertigo and or disequilibrium. The role requires advanced clinical reasoning, application of evidence-based vestibular rehabilitation, and safe, timely escalation of care when indicated. This role suits a physiotherapist with demonstrated competence in vestibular assessment and management, who enjoys working with a high degree of autonomy.

Position responsibilities

Role Specific

Patient Care:

- Triage referrals to the outpatient service based on urgency, clinical need, and response to prior interventions.
- Conduct comprehensive subjective and objective assessments to diagnose vestibular conditions, including identification of red flags and potential non-vestibular causes.
- Perform detailed vestibular and neurological examinations, including:
 - Oculomotor and HINTS+ assessments
 - Positional testing (e.g. Dix-Hallpike, Roll Test)
 - Gait and balance assessments
- Interpret clinical findings and relevant investigations to confirm diagnosis.
- Develop and implement evidence-based management plans, including:
 - Canalith repositioning manoeuvres (e.g. Epley, Gufoni, BBQ roll)
 - Vestibular rehabilitation programs (gaze stabilisation, habituation, balance retraining)
- Monitor patient progress using validated outcome measures and modify treatment accordingly.
- Provide education to patients and carers regarding condition, prognosis, and self-management strategies.
- Escalate care appropriately, including urgent referral to emergency or medical services when required.
- Refer to appropriate medical specialists (e.g. neurology, ENT) and other allied health professionals as indicated.
- Manage patients according to Austin Health protocols where relevant
- Communicate/liaise with clients, family or caregivers and other medical or allied staff regarding patient progress/issues
- Act as resource and consultant for junior physiotherapists and medical staff as required



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- Practice within scope and seek guidance when clinical presentations fall outside vestibular practice.

Administration/Management:

- Maintain accurate clinical documentation / statistics as directed.
- Assist in reviewing and updating Vestibular clinical resources as required.
- To conduct site and physiotherapy department activities as required

Training and Development:

- Complete annual mandatory training requirements as specified by Austin Health.
- Maintain a current knowledge of relevant physiotherapy literature and clinical developments.
- Participate in other internal / external continuing education activities as appropriate e.g. APA special interest group activities, hospital lectures and courses.
- Participate in relevant local and organisation wide orientation programs on commencement.
- Participate in regular supervision with the Grade 4 or 5 Physiotherapist

Staff/Student training and supervision:

- Provide education to Physiotherapy staff and/or Medical Staff (including Emergency Department physicians) on Vestibular Rehabilitation
- Contribute to the orientation, training and development and mentoring of rotating Physiotherapists, allied health assistants and Physiotherapy students when required

Quality Assurance:

- Assist in developing and maintaining guidelines and resources relevant to hospital accreditation and the National Standards for Safety and Quality in Healthcare.
- Actively participate in department and sub-department quality improvement activities as appropriate
- Support colleagues in the PT department to undertake quality improvement
- Actively support colleagues in transition to electronic medical record
- Actively promote quality improvement initiatives to upskill junior staff in the management of people with neurological impairments

All Employees

- Comply with Austin Health policies and procedures, as amended from time to time, which can be located on the intranet Pulse OPPIC page ([Home](#))
- Participate in Austin Health's annual Performance Review and Development (PRD) program as required.
- Engage in processes to monitor service delivery and participate in improvement activities.
- Undertake not to reveal to any person or entity any confidential information relating to patients, employees, policies, and processes and not make public statements relating to the affairs of Austin Health without prior authority of the Chief Executive Officer.
- Report incidents or near misses that have or could have impact on safety and participate in the identification and prevention of risks.
- Participate in the emergency incident response activities as directed.
- Perform other duties that may be required by the Physiotherapy Manager, Stream Leader or Senior Clinician as required.



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Selection criteria

Essential skills and experience:

- A commitment to Austin Health values: Our actions show we care; we bring our best; together we achieve; and we shape the future.
- Physiotherapist currently registered for practice in Australia (AHPRA)
- >7 years of clinical experience, including significant experience managing patients with vestibular and neurological conditions (inpatient and/or outpatients).
- Advanced knowledge of vestibular anatomy, pathophysiology and common conditions (e.g. BPPV, acoustic neuroma, unilateral or bilateral peripheral vestibular dysfunction, Meniere's disease, mild head trauma and vestibular migraine involving dizziness, vertigo and or disequilibrium)
- Competence in vestibular assessment, clinical reasoning and interpretation of findings.
- Experience in delivering vestibular rehabilitation and canalith repositioning manoeuvres.
- Excellent understanding of scope of practice, including recognition of red flags and appropriate escalation
- Excellent communication skills and proven capacity to successfully work as part of a multidisciplinary team.
- Commitment to ongoing education/postgraduate education.
- A sound understanding of information technology including clinical systems and applications relevant to risk management reporting or as required for the role and/or department.

Desirable but not essential:

- Completed or currently undertaking relevant postgraduate qualification
- Experience working in outpatient or specialist dizziness/vertigo services
- Active participation in a professional community of practice or vestibular special interest group

Professional qualifications and registration requirements

- AHPRA Registration

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.



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- 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.



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