

# Position Description

## Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner

<b>Classification:</b>	Nurse Practitioner (N01-2)
<b>Business unit/department:</b>	Cardiology
<b>Work location:</b>	Austin Hospital <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (please specify)
<b>Agreement:</b>	Nurses and Midwives (Victorian Public Sector) (Single Interest Employers) Enterprise Agreement 2024-2028 Choose an item.
<b>Employment type:</b>	Fixed-Term Part-Time
<b>Hours per week:</b>	As per contract
<b>Reports to:</b>	Operational - Divisional Manager, Cardiac, Vascular, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedics & Specialty Surgery Professional - Director of Nursing Austin
<b>Direct reports:</b>	0
<b>Financial management:</b>	Budget: n/a
<b>Date:</b>	August 2025

Austin Health acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which Austin Health operates, the Wurundjeri 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

The Nurse Practitioner (NP) is directly involved in the provision of expert patient-centred clinical care and is recognised as a senior clinical nurse in their area of specialty. This extends to the care of family, carers, and other health professionals.

Nurse Practitioners (NP) are supported by Austin Health to work in clinical specialties where there is evidence that the advanced clinical skills of a Nurse Practitioner would enhance patient outcomes within an efficient service model.

The Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner role aims to optimise patient outcomes during the acute phase of illness in ED and inpatient setting and during the recovery/transitional period in the outpatient clinic and via telehealth.

The Nurse Practitioner is accountable for making professional judgments about when a referral or an activity is beyond their own capacity or scope of practice and for initiating consultation with, or referral to, other members of the health care team. The Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner will work collaboratively with clinicians within the admitting unit and GPs, supported by the Director of Heart Failure Services & Cardiology.

## Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner practice settings and patient population

### About the Directorate/Division/Department

The Department of Cardiology at Austin Health is committed to providing high quality and compassionate care to patients with all forms of heart disease. It also provides a consultative service for other units within Austin Health. The department has a strong clinical, teaching and research focus.

The inpatient clinical service is located at the Austin Hospital and comprises a ward facility (Ward 5 East) with 33 dedicated cardiac and thoracic beds, including a 10 bed cardiac high dependency unit. Outpatient clinics are conducted at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.

A state-of-the-art diagnostic area (5 North) adjacent to the ward supports the cardiac catheterisation laboratories and non-invasive laboratories. A day recovery area contains 12 monitored beds for patients undergoing elective day procedures. The interventional cardiology service performs over 2000 cardiac catheterisations annually including approximately 700 percutaneous coronary interventions (stenting), balloon valvuloplasty, septal defect closures, carotid and peripheral vascular interventions. The electrophysiology service performs approximately 300 ablation procedures and device implants for patients with cardiac rhythm disturbances per year. The non-invasive service performs approximately 4000 transthoracic and transoesophageal echocardiograms annually in addition to Holter monitoring studies. It currently admits an average of 2200 heart failure patients annually. Strong links exist with the Department of Cardiac Surgery at Austin Health.

### Position responsibilities

#### Role Specific:

Nurse Practitioners hold a protected title and must seek endorsement and ongoing registration renewal through the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA).

#### Independence

- NP practice recognises the educational and advanced practice attributes beyond the Registered Nurse standards for practice.
- Endorsed to diagnose and implement treatments without direct clinical supervision.
- Endorsed to prescribe medications, request diagnostic investigations and receive/make referrals as defined by their scope of practice
- Work collaboratively as part of a healthcare team.

#### Education domain

- Fosters a culture of clinical excellence that is based on person- centered care, collaboratively working with staff to focus on the quality and safety of services.
- Provide a resource role to patients, families, General Practitioner's, and community groups.
- Assist with the provision of health promotion activities.



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- Maintains and updates own Professional Practice Portfolio to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to learning and best practice.

### Research domain

- Awareness of the latest research literature, equipment and treatment and utilisation of knowledge in practice.
- Disseminates clinical practice and research finding via education and publications.
- Initiates and conducts nursing research relevant to clinical specialty.
- Participates in the development and delivery of specialist research programs.
- Adapts and applies related scientific research to clinical area.
- Involved in clinical data collection as necessary.
- Reports on key quality parameters monthly to the multidisciplinary team, or as required.
- Demonstrates a capacity to undertake/support nursing research, publication of work and public presentation within the local, national, and international healthcare community.

### Leadership domain

- Provides expert clinical knowledge and direction to ensure that clinical standards, policies, and procedures promote a patient focused model of care.
- Acts as a nursing role model for staff and an expert clinician in the clinical setting.
- Assists the development of clinical specialty, by assuming a nursing leadership role in specialty clinical groups at State, National or an International Level.
- Participates in the development and delivery of specialist education programs.
- Participates in formal and informal education programs.
- Delivers regular education to staff as required.
- The NP will assist to orientate junior medical staff, HMOs and registrars regarding local processes as required.
- Advocate for the development of nurse practitioner practice.
- Monitors own practice as well as participating in peer supervision and review.
- Displays important leadership qualities such as integrity; confidence; ability to inspire others; excellent communication; clear complex decision-making ability; accountability; ability to communicate information and expectations in a way that builds effective and collaborative working relationships with others.

### Clinical domain

#### Standard 1: Assesses using diagnostic capabilities.

- Heart failure Nurse Practitioner specific:
  - Performs advanced and focused patient assessment and request relevant investigations for patients with heart failure, common conditions associated with heart failure and associated co-morbidities, within the multidisciplinary care model at Austin Health.
  - Uses critical thinking and diagnostic decision making to formulate differential diagnoses, order and monitor diagnostic results and implement appropriate care interventions, including pharmacological therapies.
  - Managing the complete episode of care for patients in the defined patient population. Includes history and physical examination, diagnostic management, coordination of patient care, initiating consultation and discharge planning, discussing care with GPs, family members and follow up in a primary care, outpatient and/or telehealth clinic.
  - Patient assessment and facilitating admission to hospital.
  - The Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner performs initial assessment of patients presenting to the ED with acute decompensated heart failure, requests diagnostic investigations,



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interprets findings, and discusses clinical management including pharmacotherapy and appropriateness of the admission with the respective medical staff on duty.

- Assessment findings, diagnostic results, clinical impression (including differential diagnoses) and care plan (including expected length of stay) are documented by the Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner in the patient's medical file under a heading of Heart Failure Service or Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner (General Medicine or Cardiology Admission (as appropriate)). After consultation with the registrar of the admitting unit, the Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner will liaise with ward nurse-in-charge (NIC), ED NIC and bed managers as required to coordinate rapid admission if indicated.
- The Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner may request investigations (listed below) and prescribe medications for patients with acute decompensated heart failure in accordance with currently agreed clinician guidelines (i.e. in alignment with the Austin Health Department of Cardiology/General Medicine Registrar Handbook via the Cerner Millennium Electronic Ordering system or on paper request forms).
- The Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner is responsible for monitoring all diagnostic test results that they request (or alternatively, is responsible for handing-over to the admitting unit registrar on duty). The Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner discusses diagnostic results with the patient (or next of kin as appropriate), initiates evidence-based care in partnership with the patient, and monitors response to treatment.
- If diagnostic results are returned which are outside of the scope of the Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner practice, the Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner is responsible for referral to other specialty teams or health professionals (including the Cardiology Registrar or Consultant on duty or Heart Failure fellow).
- The Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner is authorised to request tests within the ED, and inpatient and outpatient setting. In order to request tests which require provision of a Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS) Provider Number (i.e. outpatient services, services relevant to Transport Accident Commission and/or Work Cover claims, private providers), the Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner is required to discuss the case with the designated clinical (medical) supervisor. Request paperwork is completed by the Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner using the clinical (medical) supervisor MBS Provider Number as the supervising Consultant.

#### Standard 2: Plans care and engages others.

- Documents extension of practice in Clinical Practice Guidelines which are supported by the multidisciplinary team.
- Identifies gaps in care and works towards solutions and ensures creation of novel local processes in collaboration with the multidisciplinary
- Heart failure Nurse Practitioner specific:
  - The Nurse Practitioner will be an expert in heart failure and a senior nurse clinician operating within the Department of Cardiology. Heart failure patients are admitted to various units within Austin health at both the Austin and Repatriation campuses. To meet the needs of heart failure patients at Austin Health, the Nurse Practitioner is expected to assess, review/manage heart failure patients across different admitting units and locations throughout Austin Health.
  - The Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner role aims to optimise patient outcomes during the acute phase of illness in ED and inpatient setting and during the recovery/transitional period in the outpatient clinic and via telehealth.
  - The Nurse Practitioner is accountable for making professional judgments about when a referral or an activity is beyond their own capacity or scope of practice and for initiating consultation with, or referral to, other members of the health care team. The Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner will work collaboratively with clinicians within the admitting unit and



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- GPs, supported by the Director of Heart Failure Services & Cardiology.
- The Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner supports the Cardiology team with a collaborative advanced practice nursing role in the dynamic area of cardiology, focusing on Emergency, inpatients and outpatients with complex care needs and assisting in patient flow within this patient cohort. The Nurse Practitioner is employed by the division of SAPM to perform and develop the skills, knowledge and responsibilities of a Nurse Practitioner, under the supervision of the Director of Heart Failure Services.
  - Communicates a comprehensive care plan with patient, carers and the broader health care team, which addresses community awareness of cardiovascular disease and their associated risk factors, self-management of heart failure in the community (including pharmacological and lifestyle measures), and recovery from and prevention of an acute exacerbation of heart failure.
  - Monitors patient response to treatment and evaluates patient outcomes, such as medication adherence, success with risk factor/lifestyle modification strategies, improved self-management of heart failure and prevention of recurrence of heart failure symptoms.
  - Documentation in patient's history including any change to plan of care or review of patient undertaken by the Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner.
  - The Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner is authorised to refer patients to other disciplines, speciality services and health providers, as indicated, within the inpatient and outpatient setting.
  - In order to refer patients to any service which requires provision of a Medicare Benefits Scheme (MBS) Provider Number (i.e. outpatient Medicare funded clinics, HITH, services relevant to Transport Accident Commission and/or Work Cover claims, private providers), the Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner is required to discuss the case with the designated clinical (medical) supervisor. Referral/Consultation request form (M.17.0) can be completed by the Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner using the clinical (Medical) supervisor MBS Provider Number.

**Standard 3:** Prescribes and implements therapeutic interventions.

- Practices in accordance with federal, state, and territorial legislation and professional regulation governing nurse practitioner practice.  
<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/drugs-and-poisons/nurse-practitioners-legislative-requirements>
- Works together with the pharmacy team to ensure essential medications are available as required.
- Heart failure Nurse Practitioner specific:
  - Optimises guideline directed medication therapy for all HF patients based on their advanced patient assessment and provides education to patients and carers about their medications and potential side-effects
  - The Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner will prescribe medications according to the PBS guidelines and as approved by Austin Health Drug and Therapeutics committee. Nurse practitioners have the ability to prescribe all S2, S3, S4 and S8 medicines in Victoria [Nurse Practitioner: Victorian NP Prescribing](#).
  - The Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner will order intravenous fluid therapy for inpatients/outpatients under the Cardiology/General Medicine and also in outpatients for IV furosemide administration and iron infusions based on physiological assessment of fluid status and clinical indication (preparations include Normal Saline,



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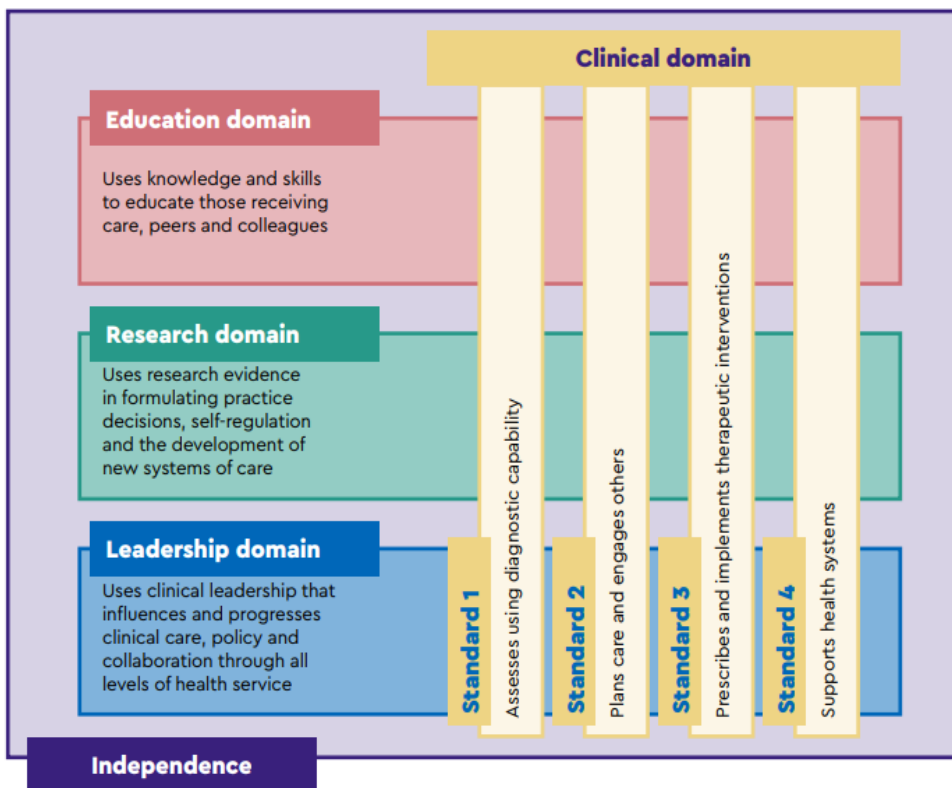


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Compound Sodium Lactate and 5% Glucose).

**Standard 4:** Supports health systems.

- Frequently will adopt a case management approach to service delivery.
- Specific clinical skills to be determined by nursing and multidisciplinary clinical teams to maximise clinical outcomes for the patients and their families.
- Maintains currency with clinical issues by engaging in ongoing clinical and managerial professional development.
- Provides psychosocial support to patient and significant others.
- Participates in the service planning process to identify future directions for the clinical service to maximise patient outcomes and resource management.
- Clinical decisions are informed by evidence-based practice.
- Displays an ability to analyze situations and make appropriate decisions in a timely manner that meets the needs of patients, staff, and organization.
- Heart failure Nurse Practitioner specific:
  - The attributes expressed in Nurse Practitioners' knowledge, skills and affect, are applied in the education domain through educating those receiving care, peers and colleagues. The use of knowledge in the research domain is evidenced through the judicious application of research evidence in formulating practice decisions, self- regulation and the development of new systems of care. The domain of leadership, initially evident in clinical work, increases in capacity to include community and political engagement. (NMBA, 2021)
  - Performs quality audit and performance reporting activities on a regular basis.
  - Conducts and facilitates research, contributing to the scientific knowledge base within the cardiovascular specialty.



(Nurse practitioner standards for practice - Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia - 1 March 202)

**All Employees:**



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- Comply with Austin Health [policies & procedures](#) as amended from time to time.
- Comply with the Code of Conduct and uphold our values, and diversity and inclusion commitments.
- Maintain a safe working environment for yourself, colleagues and members of the public. Escalate concerns regarding safety, quality and risk to the appropriate staff member, if unable to rectify yourself
- Comply with the principals of patient centred care.
- Comply with Austin Health mandatory training and continuing professional development requirements.
- Work across multiple sites as per work requirements and/or directed by management.

## Selection criteria

### Essential Knowledge and skills:

- Extensive and recent clinical experience in heart failure nursing
- Experience in co-ordinating a nurse-led clinic
- Hold a valid Australian prescriber number.
- Commitment to quality, best practice, and environmental safety.
- Demonstrated state, national or international leadership within the cardiac speciality
- Ability to communicate effectively in both written and verbal form.
- Demonstrated ability to problem solve.
- Advance level of therapeutic management skills.
- Ability to evaluate practice at an advanced level.
- Demonstrated ability to formulate and implement new models of patient care.
- Commitment to patient focused care.
- Database creation and data entry.
- Experience in nursing research and research skills.
- Critical thinking skills and the ability to work autonomously.
- Demonstrated knowledge of nursing professional standards and legal/ethical requirements.
- Commitment to nursing as a profession - through professional associations, publications, conference presentations and ongoing professional development.
- Commitment to research and its application in practice, including up to date certification for Good Clinical Practice, and credentialing)



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### Desirable but not essential:

A sound understanding of information technology including clinical systems, applications relevant to risk management reporting or as required for the role and/or department. Experience and proficiency in keyboarding and computer skills.

## Professional qualifications and registration requirements

- A Registered Nurse (Division 1) currently registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.
- Nursing & Midwifery Board of Australia endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner
- Post graduate certificate/diploma in critical care nursing

## 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.



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## 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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