

Position Description

Inflammatory Bowel Disease Clinical Nurse Consultant (IBD CNC)

Classification:	Clinical Nurse Consultant B
Business unit/department:	Surgery, Anaesthesia and Procedural Medicine Department of Gastroenterology
Work location:	Austin Hospital ☒ Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital ☒ Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre ☐ Other ☐ (please specify)
Agreement:	Nurses and Midwives (Victorian Public Sector) Single Interest Employer Agreement 2024-2028
Employment type:	Fixed-Term Part-Time
Hours per week:	0.5 FTE (5 days/40 hours per fortnight)
Reports to:	IBD Service Lead
Direct reports:	N/A
Financial management:	Budget: N/A
Date:	July 2026

We 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. We acknowledge the deep and enduring connection that First Nations Peoples have to this land, and we honour their strength, resilience, and leadership. We are committed to creating a culturally safe and supportive workplace where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are heard, valued, and empowered.

Position purpose

The IBD CNC is an integral role within the IBD multidisciplinary team responsible for providing high quality coordination of care for patients with inflammatory bowel diseases largely within the outpatient setting. The IBD CNC also plays an important part in supporting in-patient discharge planning, post-discharge follow-up and providing education to patients, in particular to those who are newly diagnosed upon admission. The IBD CNC is an important first line point of contact for patients into the service through the full-time IBD phone helpline and email service. Therefore, having the ability to effectively communicate with patients, triage contacts, escalate when required and initiate plans in a timely manner is an essential part to this role. The IBD CNC position contributes to service delivery and direction, quality and risk, overall service performance and care standards within the unit.

About the IBD Service – a sub-specialty of Gastroenterology

The IBD Service has seen significant growth over the past six years with approximately 1700 patients in its cohort. The service receives new patient referrals across a large regional area, local and interstate referrals of complex patients with IBD and intestinal failure, ulcerative colitis and primary sclerosing cholangitis, high risk pregnant patients as well as paediatric patients transitioning to adult care from the Royal Children's Hospital.

The IBD Service maintains a large research focus that spans basic science, translational medicine and patient management strategies, including clinical trials. We seek to understand the pathophysiology of disease and apply this knowledge to develop enhanced diagnostics and treatments. In addition to the IBD CNC role, the IBD multi-disciplinary team consists of the Director of IBD, IBD Service Lead, an administration officer, IBD fellow, pharmacist, gastroenterologists, other IBD Clinical Nurse Consultants (CNCs), clinical trial coordinators, dietitians, colorectal surgeon, pathologists and radiologists who work closely together.

Position responsibilities

Direct Clinical Care:

- Provide a comprehensive full-time patient support service via the IBD helpline & email to:
 - Consult with patients to manage disease flares and/or disease complications.
 - Effectively triage, implement care plans and escalate appropriately to minimise avoidable ED presentations and admissions.
 - Identify patients requiring admission based on early clinical assessment.
 - Serve as a clinical expert and support resource for patients and their families.
 - Provide inpatient support, discharge planning, post discharge follow-up and patient education.
- Coordinate care for complex immunosuppressed patients on advanced therapies to:
 - Ensure appropriate scheduling and review for patients requiring access to these therapies.
 - Coordinate advanced therapy screening (ie; pathology tests, checking vaccination status), preventative health monitoring (ie; dermatology checks, pap smears, DEXA scans) and treatment related investigations.
 - Maintain comprehensive knowledge of Medicare and PBS requirements to access advanced therapies, including managing relevant documentation to ensure timely access to treatments.
 - Coordinate testing and infusions locally and with regional providers.
 - Participate in nurse-led clinic, virtual clinics (including biologic and dysplasia surveillance), and multidisciplinary meetings (MDMs).
- Work collaboratively with administration staff and specialist departments to optimize patient access, flow and capacity across all clinics including weekly IBD, complex IBD, virtual biologics & intestinal ultrasound.
- Implement effective triage processes that support equitable and timely access to care.
- Deliver expert clinical care in accordance with professional standards, organisational policies, and scope of practice.

Education:

- Provide education and support to patients and carers to promote self-management and informed decision-making.
- Develop, deliver and participate in education and training programs for nursing, medical and allied health staff, and external healthcare providers.



Our actions
show we care



We bring
our best



Together
we achieve



We shape
the future

- Contribute to ongoing professional development, evidence-based practice, and the review of IBD protocols and guidelines.
- Facilitate staff learning through the development of cross discipline relationships and networks.
- Utilise and maintain professional practice portfolio to plan for future continuing education, professional development and employment goals for self and others.

Research:

- Support recruitment and referrals of patients for investigator-led studies, clinical trials and quality improvement initiatives.
- Demonstrate in-depth and developed knowledge of the translation of research into practice.
- Lead, guide and support others to deliver evidence-based practice.
- Identify best practice research to address gaps in nursing practice.

Support of Systems:

- Gather and prepare clinical information to support clinical and multidisciplinary decision-making.
- Maintain effective communication, documentation and handover processes within the IBD CNC team.
- Use of clinical and operational information systems to inform decision making and evaluate outcomes.
- Ensure documentation meets legal, professional and organisational standards.
- Actively contribute to the accreditation process, including achieving compliance with the National Safety & Quality Health Service Standards.

Professional Leadership:

- Provide clinical leadership, mentorship and support succession planning within the IBD service.
- Lead quality improvement initiatives to enhance service delivery, efficiency and patient outcomes.
- Contribute to the development, review and implementation of IBD protocols, guidelines and models of care.
- Foster collaborative relationships with key internal and external stakeholders.
- Promote high-quality, patient-centred and efficient service delivery across all IBD Services.
- Create a culture of nursing practice where teamwork, diversity and inclusion are central to delivery of care.

Essential skills and experience:

- A commitment to Austin Health values
- Experience working in a senior clinical role (CNS or above)
- Excellent written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills
- Excellent organisational, time-management skills and attention to detail
- Ability to work collaboratively as a team member and autonomously to meet patient needs and the goals of the service.
- A flexible, innovative team-orientated approach to service delivery
- Demonstrated ability to work with a diverse and complex professional workforce
- A positive approach to ongoing self-education and skill development



**Our actions
show we care**



**We bring
our best**



**Together
we achieve**



**We shape
the future**

- A positive approach to change and diversity
- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications

Desirable but not essential:

- Post-graduate qualification in area of specialty and role (or working towards)
- Research, publication and public presentation experience
- Prior experience in IBD and/or management of patients who are immunosuppressed
- Membership of relevant specific specialty association (ie; GENCA)

Professional qualifications and registration requirements

- Must be a Registered Nurse in Australia with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (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



Our actions
show we care



We bring
our best



Together
we achieve



We shape
the future

austin.org.au

Cultural safety

Austin Health is committed to creating a culturally safe, inclusive and anti-racist environment for all staff, patients, consumers, carers and communities. We recognise that racism, discrimination and exclusion negatively impact health and wellbeing, and acknowledge the unique and ongoing effects of colonisation, dispossession and systemic inequities experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. We are committed to embedding cultural safety and inclusion across all levels of our health service, actively identifying and eliminating racism in all its forms, and equipping our people with the knowledge, skills and confidence to challenge racism, foster respect, and create a safer and more equitable experience for everyone.

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.



**Our actions
show we care**



**We bring
our best**



**Together
we achieve**



**We shape
the future**