

Position Description

Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner Candidate

Classification:	Nurse Practitioner Candidate
Business unit/department:	Cardiology
Work location:	Austin Hospital ☒ Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital ☒ Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre ☐ Other ☐ (please specify)
Agreement:	Nurses and Midwives (Victorian Public Sector) (Single Interest Employers) Enterprise Agreement 2024-2028
Employment type:	Part-Time
Hours per week:	32
Reports to:	Professional: Director Of Nursing – Austin Hospital Operational: Divisional Manager Cardiac, Vascular, Neurosurgery, Orthopaedics & Specialty Surgery Clinical: Director of Cardiology
Direct reports:	Nil
Financial management:	Budget: Nil
Date:	October 2026

Position purpose

The HF Nurse Practitioner Candidate (HFNPc) is directly involved in the provision of expert patient centered clinical care. This extends to the care of family, carers and other health professionals.

The NP candidate is one of the senior nurse clinicians operating within the Department of Cardiology and General Medicine at Austin Health (AH) working towards their NP endorsement. The role is supported by the broader multidisciplinary team and clinical mentors.

The role has a strong focus on research, leadership, promotion of cardiovascular nursing excellence, and provision of high-quality specialised care to patients with heart failure.

The Heart Failure NP candidate role aims to optimise patient outcomes and add value to consumer experience at four time-points along the care continuum; during the acute phase of illness in ED, inpatient setting for patients presenting with acute decompensated heart failure, during the outpatient clinical setting and in the community such as primary care.

The Heart Failure NP candidate contributes to a number of service-development, research and quality assurance activities relevant to Cardiology.

About the Cardiology 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 and tilt table testing. 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

The Heart Failure NP candidate role operates primarily within three practice settings;

- Austin Hospital Emergency Department (ED) and short stay unit providing care to patients presenting with acute decompensated heart failure.
- Any inpatient settings throughout Austin Health, including referral to and liaison with HITH, sub acute Better@Home and Residential In Reach teams for onward management
- The Heart Failure Nurse Practitioner Candidate participates in outpatient medication titration clinics, telehealth and settings via face-to-face or telephone consultations. Including the Heart Function Clinic, General Medicine Heart Failure Clinic and Primary Care clinics.

Direct Clinical Care:

- Demonstrates an advanced level of clinical knowledge and expertise in cardiology and heart failure management and acts as an expert resource for staff.
- Gathers sufficient information to make informed decisions within scope of practice.
- Performs advanced and focused assessment of patients who present with acute or chronic heart failure in the ED, inpatient wards, outpatient clinics, telehealth, virtual hospital and primary care clinics following referral
- Uses critical thinking and diagnostic decision-making to formulate differential diagnoses, monitor diagnostic results and implement appropriate care interventions, including pharmacological therapies.
- Recommends, to the designated clinical (medical/nursing) supervisor relevant diagnostic investigations, interprets findings, and discusses clinical management including pharmacotherapy and referrals, with relevant medical teams.



Our actions
show we care



We bring
our best



Together
we achieve



We shape
the future

- 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, and recovery from and prevention of an acute exacerbation of heart failure.
- Uses clinical information systems to inform decision making and evaluate outcomes.
 - Provide recommendations for improvement based on critical thinking and expertise in heart failure
 - Addresses critical factors when making complex decisions and escalate accordingly
- Ensures documentation meets legal, professional, and organisational standards.

Education:

- Develop formal and informal education programs to assist and support the multidisciplinary team in delivering quality patient care.
- ensure education material is aligned with the national clinical guidelines. Maintain, develop and/or update education material as required.
- Assume responsibility for own continuing education requirements and attendance at workshops, seminars, and conferences.
- Provides leadership and clinical nursing expertise to nurses and members of the multidisciplinary team through knowledge of research, new developments in evidence-based practice pertaining to heart failure interventions and education.
- Maintains and updates own professional development portfolio in line with AHPRA guidelines to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to learning and best practice.
- Invites and assimilates feedback from others by active participation in own performance review process.
- As a candidate, identifies a suitable mentor and meets regularly with their mentor to discuss patient cases and their management

Professional Leadership:

- Maintains a professional demeanour, demonstrates Austin values, and serves as a role model for other staff.
- Attend and contribute to heart failure multidisciplinary program meetings.
- Mentors and supports junior nurses to work towards nurse practitioner
- Contribute to the development of evidence-based practice and updating policies, and procedures relevant to the role
- Promote effective communication within the multidisciplinary team.
- Contribute to creating a team environment, which promotes a positive culture, opportunity for learning and development.
- Liaise with the multidisciplinary Heart Failure team to establish patient care needs in relation to discharge plan and treatment regimes.
- Communicates information and expectations in a way that builds effective and collaborative working relationships with others.
- Effectively deals with challenging behaviours and the resolution of conflicts.
- Adapts working style as appropriate to achieve effective outcomes.

Support of Systems:

- Monitors patient response to treatment and evaluates patient outcomes, such as medication adherence and adjusts medications based on individual response to therapy, success with risk factor/lifestyle modification strategies, improved self-management of heart failure and prevention of recurrence of heart failure symptoms.
- Performs quality audit and performance reporting activities on a regular basis.



Our actions
show we care



We bring
our best



Together
we achieve



We shape
the future

- Is responsible for a timely response to referrals and manages and assists others in prioritisation and completion of tasks.
- Complete all necessary statistical data, including data entry to support financial recuperation as appropriate.
- Evaluate the quality-of-service provision through regular audits and engaging through community integration and collaboration
- Participate in relevant committee processes and attend relevant meetings relating to activity and waiting list management.
- Actively participates in interdisciplinary committees and working parties locally and organisation wide as required, and disseminates outcomes/key issues to unit staff
- Ensure that incident management is appropriate and timely and that a systematic response to local issues and performance improvement occurs.
- Provides recommendations and develops and coordinates implementation of strategies which improve the effective management of the patients with Heart Failure

Research

- 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.
- Demonstrates a capacity to undertake/support nursing research, publication of work and public presentation within the local, national, and international healthcare community.

Credentialing and Scope of Clinical Practice

The Heart Failure NPc is working towards completion of their Master of Nursing qualification and endorsement via NMBA (AHPRA), the manage patient care in collaboration with the designated clinical (medical) supervisor.

Recommending diagnostic investigations

The Heart Failure NPc may recommend to the designated clinical (medical/nursing) supervisor investigations for patients with acute decompensated or chronic heart failure in accordance with currently agreed clinician guidelines (i.e. in alignment with the AH Department of Cardiology/General Medicine Registrar Handbook via the Cerner Millennium Electronic Ordering system or on paper request forms).

The Heart Failure NPc is responsible for monitoring all diagnostic test results in collaboration with the designated clinical (medical) supervisor. The Heart Failure NPc discusses diagnostic results with the patient (or next of kin as appropriate), recommends evidence-based care in partnership with the patient, appropriate clinicians and monitors response to treatment.

The Director of Heart Failure services will take responsibility for education about indications, limitations and handling of inadvertent findings on diagnostic tests for Heart Failure NPcs.

Referral to Speciality Health Services

The Heart Failure NPc may recommend patients are referred to other disciplines, speciality services and health providers, as indicated, within the inpatient / outpatient / primary care settings.

In order to refer patients the Heart Failure NPc is required to discuss the case with the designated clinical (medical) supervisor.

Medication Prescribing



**Our actions
show we care**



**We bring
our best**



**Together
we achieve**



**We shape
the future**

The Heart Failure NPc considers the quality use of medicines and recommends guideline directed therapeutic interventions to the designated clinical (medical/nursing) supervisor.

The Heart Failure NPc is working towards completion of their Master of Nursing qualification and endorsement via NMBA (AHPRA) to enable them to prescribe medications according to the PBS guidelines.

Selection criteria

Essential skills and experience:

- Committed to undertaking approved Masters Qualification for NMBA (AHPRA) NP endorsement
- Extensive and recent clinical experience in cardiovascular nursing
- Advanced level of therapeutic management skills
- Demonstrated excellent collaborative, leadership, teaching, and interpersonal skills
- Well-developed communication skills
- Ability to work as a team member and achieve projected goals and targets
- Ability to evaluate practice at an advanced level
- Demonstrate educational skills and computer knowledge
- Experience in nursing research and research skills

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

- Committed to undertaking approved Masters Qualification for NMBA (AHPRA) NP endorsement
- Post graduate qualification within cardiovascular / critical care nursing
- Qualified Registered Nurse Degree
- Current 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.
- Comply with requirements of National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards and other relevant regulatory requirements.



Our actions
show we care



We bring
our best



Together
we achieve



We shape
the future

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.



Our actions
show we care



We bring
our best



Together
we achieve



We shape
the future