

Position Description

Lead Pharmacist – Clinical Trials

Classification:	Pharmacist, Grade 4, TA20 – TA22
Business unit/department:	Pharmacy
Work location:	Austin Hospital ☒ Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital ☒ Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre ☒ Other ☐ (please specify)
Agreement:	Victorian Public Health Sector (Medical Scientists, Pharmacists and Psychologists) Single Enterprise Agreement 2021-2025
Employment type:	Fixed-Term Full-Time
Hours per week:	38
Reports to:	Deputy Director of Pharmacy – Operations
Direct reports:	As per departmental reporting structure
Financial management:	N/A
Date:	July 2026

Austin Health acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we operate, 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

The Lead Pharmacist – Clinical Trials coordinates the provision and maintenance of high-quality, efficient and innovative pharmacy clinical trials services within their portfolio. The role also supports Austin Health in delivering strategies and goals to align with the value of shaping the future. Through research, education and learning we innovate, exploring new opportunities that will change healthcare for the better.

About the Directorate/Division/Department

The Pharmacy Department sits within the Division of the Chief Medical Officer and provides comprehensive high-quality care to Austin Health patients and supports other members of the healthcare team in all aspects of medicines management. The department consists of a skilled team of pharmacists, technicians and support staff working across all three campuses of Austin Health to ensure patients receive excellent care.

The Clinical Trials Pharmacy plays a key role in the whole clinical trials process from ethics submission through to audits from international regulatory bodies. The Clinical Trials team support the administration of over 300 trials both commercial and investigator led for Austin Health.

Position responsibilities

Clinical Trials Oversight

- Ensure the conduct of clinical trials in accordance with the study protocol, legal and hospital requirements, ICH-GCP, NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research and AdPhA Standards of Practice in Clinical Trials for Pharmacy Services.
- Develop and implement strategic plans to support growth and compliance of clinical trials.
- Provide expert advice to executive leadership, investigators, and research teams on investigational product management.
- Develop, review, and maintain policies, standard operating procedures, and guidelines.
- Lead audit readiness and manage internal/external audits and inspections.
- Ensure proper documentation, accountability, and traceability of investigational products, including all aspects of product handling (e.g. receipt, storage, dispensing, destruction, temperature monitoring, cold chain integrity, blinding and randomisation procedures).
- Ensure accurate and timely dispensing in accordance with study protocols
- Manage study start up activities, including feasibility, pharmacy costing, and risk assessment.
- Monitor study progress and troubleshoot operational issues.
- Act as the primary pharmacy contact for the principal investigators, clinical research coordinators, sponsors, and other study personnel.
- Oversee trial pre-study site selection and auditor visits as well as ongoing monitoring visits
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams to ensure seamless trial execution, including participation in protocol review meetings and study feasibility assessments.
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams to support digital health and informatics integration.

Financial and Contract Management

- Develop and manage clinical trials pharmacy budgets in partnership with Director of Pharmacy.
- Review and negotiate pharmacy aspects of clinical trial agreements and budgets.
- Ensure the cost recovery and financial sustainability of clinical trials services.
- Ensure accountability and tracking of revenue, expenditures, and resource utilisation.

Patient Safety and Clinical Oversight

- Ensure patient safety through safe storage, preparation, and dispensing of investigation medicines by all team members.
- Review study protocols for medication-related risks and operational feasibility.
- Manage unblinding procedure when required for patient care.
- Review portfolio errors entered into Riskman and participate in a Just Culture approach to medication error investigation and continuous improvement.
- Participate in Human Research Ethics Committees as the pharmacy representative.

Education and Training

- Provide education and training to pharmacy staff on clinical trials processes, investigational product handling, and regulatory requirements
- Support the onboarding of new staff to the portfolio area
- Develop training materials for clinical trials



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Management and Leadership

- Lead a team within designated portfolio
- Implement strategic goals for clinical trial pharmacy services ensuring the delivery of safe, timely, evidence-based care
- Promote and embed a culture of continuous improvement and innovation
- Collaborate with leadership teams across Austin health and represent Pharmacy at relevant committees and meetings
- Support initiatives to improve medication safety, clinical excellence and digital health
- Provide advice to the Pharmacy Executive based on operational, legal and performance needs
- Represent pharmacy through active participation in external activities and organisations
- Support other services within department as required
- Act for the Deputy Director of Pharmacy in their absence when required
- Perform other duties as directed by the Director of Pharmacy

Quality, Safety and Research

- Implement and monitor medication management KPIs
- Ensure compliance with legislation, accreditation standards and other relevant guidelines
- Contribute to research and development activities
- Collaborate with universities for education and research
- Ensure consistent service delivery aligned with policies
- Identify and manage risk with reduction strategies
- Support staff development through conferences and feedback sharing
- Dispense medications according to Pharmacy Board of Australia Practice guidelines and appropriate legislation

Workforce

- Lead and foster a culture aligned with Austin Health values
- Recruit and retain a skilled workforce
- Manage staff leave effectively
- Oversee annual performance reviews and development opportunities
- Ensure all pharmacists maintain AHPRA registration
- Oversee professional development opportunities for portfolio
- Participate in weekend, public holiday and on-call services

This post is one of continual development. The job description is intended as a guide to the principal duties and responsibilities of the post and complements individual objectives set in line with the department's annual business objectives. Responsibilities will be reviewed periodically in line with service priorities and duties may change or new duties be introduced after consultation with the post holder.

Selection criteria

Essential skills and experience:

- A minimum of 8 years' experience as a Hospital Pharmacist and demonstrated experience in a leadership capacity.
- Proficiency and expertise in clinical trials pharmacy with escalating responsibility over the previous 5 years.



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- Superior administrative and organisational skills, and exhibit the ability to work and communicate effectively with pharmacy staff and other health professionals
- Demonstrated managerial and leadership skills, including financial, human resource and workforce skills.
- Demonstrated effective interpersonal skills including communication, negotiation, team building and conflict resolution skills.
- Demonstrated commitment to patient safety and excellence
- Capacity to perform under pressure, to meet time constraints and determine work priorities.
- Highly developed written and oral communication skills.
- Sound knowledge and understanding of all relevant aspects of hospital pharmacy services.
- Demonstrated experience with drug and therapeutics committees, medication safety initiatives, quality use of medicines, continuous quality improvement processes and risk management.
- A commitment to continuing education and the ability to keep abreast of current knowledge and accepted practices

Desirable but not essential:

- Recognised as a leader within the Pharmacy profession as evidenced by qualifications/awards, professional publications, conference presentations, committee and professional organisation membership, grant submissions and involvement in teaching and education.
- Demonstrated commitment to research or practice development as evidenced by research qualification, research publications and/or successful grant applications.
- Formal education in leadership and management.
- Experience with utilisation of nCoup Investigational Drug System and Merlin

Professional qualifications and registration requirements

- Current registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulatory Agency (APHRA) / Pharmacy Board of Australia
- Relevant postgraduate qualifications (minimum Master level)

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.*



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- 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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