

Position Description

Registered Nurse – Spinal Rehab

Classification:	Registered Nurse
Business unit/department:	Spinal Rehabilitation Facility
Work location:	Austin Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (please specify)
Agreement:	Nurses and Midwives (Victorian Public Sector) (Single Interest Employers) Enterprise Agreement 2024-2028
Employment type:	Fixed Term Full-Time or Part-Time
Hours per week:	114 hours per week
Reports to:	Nurse Unit Manager - Spinal Rehab Facility
Direct reports:	None
Financial management:	Budget: Nil Responsibility
Date:	December 2025

Position purpose

As a Registered Nurse at Austin Health you are responsible for planning, implementing and Austin Health Position Description, evaluating evidence based nursing care in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team to achieve optimal healthcare outcomes for our patients. The Registered Nurse is a key member of the health care team responsible for ensuring nursing professional, organisation, legal and ethical standards are met. The Registered Nurse is responsible for supervising and delegating to other health professionals such as Enrolled Nurses and Health Assistants in Nursing

About the Directorate/Division/Department

The Victorian Spinal Cord Service (VSCS) is a statewide service that provides acute, rehabilitation and community-based services for people who sustain traumatic and selected non-traumatic spinal cord injuries in Victoria, Tasmania and southern NSW. The VSCS offers continuous care from injury notification, inpatient care to community follow up.

The Spinal Rehabilitation Facility (SRF) at Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre campus provides specialist spinal rehabilitation and some outpatient services. This purpose-built rehabilitation facility, opened in 1994, currently runs 20 beds. Nursing staff work in close collaboration with our Allied Health and our Community Spinal team to ensure a holistic patient experience and positive patient outcomes. We currently work under a Primary Nursing model of care, where the nurse works closely with the patient to provide education and support to assist the patient in achieving their

goals, and ensure a smooth discharge takes place. The nurse works to assist in discharge planning which involves communication skills and team building. VSCS nursing staff are highly specialised in areas such as, but not limited to, spinal cord injury, bladder & bowel management, respiratory management and wound care.

Position responsibilities

Direct Clinical Care:

- Act as clinical mentor/preceptor to entry to practice/ nursing students.
- Utilise patient assessment information to adjust the care plan to meet health care
- Facilitate active patient involvement in adapting goals of care and ensure patient
- understanding through 'teach back'.
- Escalate to the multidisciplinary team to modify the plan of care where abnormalities in assessment information are identified, and the clinical situation is unfamiliar or unexpected.
- Document comprehensive care priorities including discharge planning that is aligned with goals of care and patient assessment information.
- Prioritise and deliver care within scope of practice and according to nursing care plan.
- Facilitate active patient/family participation in delivery of goals of care, including
- handover.
- Recognise and seek support when input is required from senior/experienced staff.
- Recognise normal baseline and abnormal patient information; ensure escalation of care where abnormal findings are identified.
- Complete all clinical requirements of nursing orientation and induction module.
- Actively participate in huddles and handover process recognising deviation from handover content to clinical presentation.

Education:

- Contribute to the education and development of other nurses at ward/unit level, as appropriate, to own role and level of experience.
- Offer feedback to others that is specific, supportive, and non-judgmental.
- Participate in professional development activities within clinical environment such as involvement in ward/unit portfolios.
- Maintain professional practice portfolio to reflect development of knowledge and skills over time.

Support of Systems:

- Understand the Austin Health vision and strategic priorities.
- Understand the Austin Health Nursing Vision: Austin nurses working alongside Austin Nurses 24/7 to deliver reliable, safe, person-centred care.
- Work within the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards
- providing evidence-based nursing care.
- Ensure practice compliance for all relevant guidelines and procedures.
- Model professional behaviours and actions when risk and incidents are identified.
- Understand and follow workplace safety principles.



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- Contribute to workplace safety audits.
- Understand Austin Health Clinical informatics systems including Cerner, First Net, PACS, Patient Journey Board, EMR, ATLAS, etc.
- Demonstrate safe and ethical practice within health informatics systems.

Professional Leadership:

- Provide appropriate delegation, supervision and support to all staff as per NMBA
- Decision Making Framework.
- Reflect on own values, beliefs, communication style and experiences and consider how this influences own workplace behaviour.
- Role model Austin Values in daily practice.
- Clearly recognise own accountability for actions and behaviours as delegated as per NMBA Decision Making Framework.
- Recognise, acknowledge and value the unique contribution of individuals.

Selection criteria

Essential Knowledge and skills:

- A commitment to Austin Health values
- A patient focused approach to care
- A positive approach to ongoing self-education and skill development
- A flexible, innovative team-oriented approach to service delivery
- A positive approach to change and diversity

Desirable but not essential:

- Spinal nursing experience
- Rehabilitation nursing experience

Professional qualifications and registration requirements

- Registered Nurse registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia

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.



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- 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

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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