

Position Description

Respiratory Scientist - Grade 2

Classification:	Medical Scientist Grade 2 (Respiratory Laboratory)
Business unit/department:	Department of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine
Work location:	Austin Hospital <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (please specify)
Agreement:	Victorian Public Health Sector (Medical Scientists, Pharmacists and Psychologists) Single Enterprise Agreement 2021-2025
Employment type:	Full-Time
Hours per week:	40 hrs (with ADO)
Reports to:	Senior Scientist, Respiratory Laboratory
Direct reports:	N/A
Financial management:	Budget: N/A
Date:	July 2025

Position purpose

To work in a team delivering high quality care in a clinical setting focused on patient outcomes and quality control. This position is primarily responsible for managing the day-to day activities of the Austin Hospital domiciliary oxygen service, which provides a comprehensive service to a wide variety of patients being assessed for or already using supplemental oxygen. The position may also involve performing routine and some of the more complex respiratory function testing within the laboratories, while demonstrating high standards of laboratory measurement and patient care.

About the Directorate/Division/Department

The Department of Respiratory & Sleep Medicine (DRSM) is one of the Specialty and Statewide Services within the Medical and Cancer Services Division. The DRSM operates a clinical service providing extensive inpatient and outpatient care. Operating within the DRSM is the Victorian Respiratory Support Service, which provides support to clients on home ventilation. The DRSM also operates a Sleep Laboratory and a Respiratory Laboratory.

The Department of Respiratory & Sleep Medicine is a large, multi-disciplinary facility providing a comprehensive investigation and treatment service for a broad range of respiratory and sleep disorders within Austin Health and the wider community. The Respiratory Laboratory is a key component of the Department of Respiratory and Sleep Medicine and provides a comprehensive, tertiary level, diagnostic laboratory service. The domiciliary oxygen service operates within the Respiratory Laboratory and provides a comprehensive service covering all needs relating to home oxygen for both inpatients discharged with oxygen and outpatients referred to the service.

Position responsibilities

- Manage the day to day activities of the Domiciliary Oxygen Service.
- Perform initial assessments, follow-up reviews and patient education according to established procedures.
- Ensure patient reviews are undertaken in a timely manner such that transfer of funding responsibility occurs without delays.
- Be involved in the conduct of an effective quality assurance program.
- Participate in training, education and professional development programs for staff.
- Perform arterial blood gases, six-minute walk and other tests as required and according to established protocols.
- Actively contribute to research and development work consistent with the overall research priorities of the DRSM and Austin Health.
- Provide education about the Oxygen Service and provision of oxygen as requested to various groups within Austin Health
- Ensure that the service operates within budgetary constraints and provide regular activity/workload reports to management
- Ensure domiciliary oxygen reporting requirements for Austin Health patients are met.
- Undertake quality improvement projects in consultation with Director of the Domiciliary Oxygen service.
- Perform respiratory function tests as required following established protocols.

Selection criteria



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Essential skills and experience:

- Knowledge and experience of respiratory physiology and lung function testing.
- Good understanding of COPD pathophysiology
- Excellent communication skills.
- Commitment to a high standard of patient care.
- Demonstrated ability to work under pressure, prioritising work to meet deadlines.
- Able to work both independently and effectively in a team.
- Ability to liaise with relevant Health care agencies (eg suppliers, SWEP)
- Ability to effectively deliver patient education and deal with problem-solving issues regarding oxygen usage
- Demonstrated initiative and enthusiasm, approachable, flexible nature.
- Excellent computer skills including familiarity with MS Word, Excel and Outlook.
- Commitment to ongoing professional development.
- Eligible for Membership of the Australian Council for Clinical Physiologists.

Desirable but not essential:

- CRFS qualification.
- Previous experience working in an oxygen clinic
- Experience with arterial blood gas sampling and six-minute walk tests.
- Ability to interpret scientific findings and provide professional advice.
- Member of the Australian Council for Clinical Physiologists.

Professional qualifications and registration requirements

- Bachelor of Science or an equivalent science degree

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.



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- 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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