

# Austin Health

## Position Description



Position Title: **Registrar in Clinical Toxicology**

Classification:	
Business Unit/ Department:	<b>Emergency Department</b>
Agreement:	Victorian Public Health Sector (AMA Victoria) - Doctors in Training Agreement 2018-2021
Employment Type:	Full-Time
Hours per week:	43
Reports to:	<b>Director Victorian Poisons Information Centre / Austin Toxicology Service / Director Emergency Department</b>
Direct Reports:	<b>Director Victorian Poisons Information Centre / Austin Toxicology Service</b>
Financial management:	
Date:	3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2021

## About Austin Health

Austin Health is one of Victoria's largest health care providers. Comprising the Austin Hospital, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, Royal Talbot Rehabilitation, Hospital in the Home and community-based health services; Austin Health is an internationally recognised leader in clinical teaching, training and research, with numerous university and research institute affiliations.

Austin Health employs near 9,000 staff across its sites; including over 1,600 doctors and 3,000 nurses, and delivers a full range of leading-edge clinical services, including several state-wide services (liver transplant, spinal cord injury service, respiratory support service, child inpatient mental health service). In total, Austin Health provides over 900 beds, including mental health, aged-care and rehabilitation beds and a range of community and in the home services. The current annual operating budget is in excess of \$960 million.

Austin Health delivers vital state-wide services to all Victorians, including to diverse multicultural and veteran communities. It also provides community and specialty services to the people of Melbourne's north-eastern corridor in a safety-focused, team-oriented and stimulating work environment.

Austin Health's current vision is shaping the future through exceptional care, discovery and learning.

Our values define who we are, shape our culture and the behaviours, practices and mindset of our people. Our values are: Our actions show we care, we bring our best, together we achieve and we shape the future. [www.austin.org.au/about-us](http://www.austin.org.au/about-us)

Austin Health is committed to providing an inclusive culture where all employees can contribute to the best of their ability and strive to develop further. Find more at <http://www.austin.org.au>

## Position Purpose

### **Aim of Registrar in Clinical Toxicology Position**

The position of registrar in clinical toxicology is a specialist fixed term 6-month position accredited for advance special skills term training with ACEM. The registrar in clinical toxicology is responsible for providing care for acutely poisoned patients presenting to the Austin Hospital, managing inpatients and providing telephone consultation advice in conjunction with the Victorian Poisons Information Centre (VPIC). The position is supervised by consultants in clinical toxicology.

The main aim of the rotation is to provide the trainee with specialised knowledge and skills to enable them to manage poisoned patients. Trainees will gain knowledge and skills in three main areas.

1. Clinical knowledge / examination skills: To attain knowledge and skills enabling independent management of common ED poisoning presentations.
  - Resuscitation
  - Decontamination
  - Provision of specific antidotes
  - Provision of appropriate supportive care
  - Utilisation of extracorporeal techniques
  - Recognition of the contribution of patient co-morbidities
  - Assessment and initial management of psychiatric co-morbidities
  - Disposition planning
  - Management of the poisoned patient requiring care in a critical care setting including the Intensive care Unit
  - Management of victims of chemical exposures including terrorist attacks
  - Management of chronic poisoning including environmental and occupational exposures
  - Management of envenomation
  - Management of drug and alcohol withdrawal states

Knowledge acquisition will be facilitated through:

- One-to-one bedside teaching with senior members of the clinical toxicology/ pharmacology teams.
- A dedicated weekly 30–60 minute teaching session with one of the senior members of the clinical toxicology team. These sessions aim to cover (at a minimum) all of the designated expert topics within the ACEM part II curriculum.
- VPIC case referrals, call reviews and discussion.

- VPIC/ATS Clinical Governance and educational meetings.
  - Toxicology Forums.
  - Presentation of a topic or case report at one of the toxicology forums.
  - Self-directed learning.
2. Research / Publication: It is expected that the Toxicology Registrar will publish one scientific abstract or paper related to clinical toxicology during the 6-month term. Amongst other resources, registrars have access to collated information within the clinical toxicology database to facilitate this aim. This publication / presentation may fulfil the requirement for the ACEM college 4.10 regulation.
  3. Administration: Gain a working knowledge of the concepts underlying clinical governance and quality assurance regarding the services provided by VPIC and ATS.

It is expected that after completion of the rotation the trainee will possess sufficient knowledge to pass the toxicology section of the part II FACEM examination.

## About the Department

The toxicology service at the Austin Hospital is comprised of the Victorian Poisons Information Centre (VPIC) and the Austin Toxicology Service (ATS), which work in close collaboration and are based in the Austin Hospital Emergency Department.

VPIC provides specialist poisons information to health service providers and members of the public throughout Victoria. The VPIC works closely with Poison Information Centres (PICs) throughout Australia and New Zealand, and participates in an overnight roster, providing national on-call services. Nationally credentialed clinical toxicologists based at the Austin Hospital and Monash Health Hospitals provide medical support.

The ATS is comprised of clinicians from the Emergency Department within the Austin Hospital. All of these clinicians have an active interest in clinical toxicology and significant experience in providing care for acutely poisoned patients. They provide an on-call service for poisoned patients presenting to the Austin ED or transferred to the Austin Hospital for specialist toxicology and critical care services. ATS clinicians also provide outpatient services for patients with chronic and occupational-related poisonings.

The Victorian Poisons Information Centre (VPIC) commenced operation in 1962. It was located at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH), Melbourne from 1976 to 2008. In August 2008 VPIC relocated to the Emergency Department at the Austin Hospital, to integrate with the Austin Toxicology Service (ATS).

VPIC provides members of the Victorian public with information about:

- First aid in the event of poisoning, suspected poisoning, bites and stings, mistakes with medicines etc.
- The need for medical assessment
- Prevention of poisoning

- Referral to other information sources.

VPIC provides health professionals with information about:

- the ingredients in products involved in poisoning or exposure
- Assessment of the severity of a poisoning or exposure
- Potential toxic effects from a poisoning or exposure
- Treatment and management advice.

VPIC is one of four Poisons Information centers within Australia. It operates Monday to Friday (0800 to 2130 hours), and Saturday and Sunday (0800 to 2100 hours). Outside these times, calls are diverted to the New South Wales Poisons Information Centre, which operates on a 24-hour basis. VPIC works approximately 80 overnight shifts (12 midnight to 0600 hours) per year, to assist the other Poisons Information centers in taking calls from across Australia.

VPIC enjoys a close day-to-day working relationship with the toxicology registrar, toxicology fellow and the clinical toxicology consultants. VPIC staff refer difficult or complex cases to the toxicology registrar, fellow or the on-call clinical toxicology consultant for advice. Call escalation follows established referral criteria.

VPIC also has access to a range of other consultants (clinical pharmacologists, mycologists and botanists), who can provide specialist advice if needed.

The Austin Toxicology Service (ATS) provides consultative and inpatient care for over 600 acutely poisoned patients per year.

## Purpose and Accountabilities

### **Role Specific**

The toxicology registrar manages admitted toxicology inpatients, is on-call during business hours for clinical advice routed through the VPIC and may receive referrals for advice on the management of poisoned or potentially poisoned patients from other units within the Austin Hospital.

The normal hours of work are undertaken between 0800 -2100 There is an on-call component of one evening per week and every second weekend, which includes a morning ward round of admitted patients.

Consultant toxicologists in addition to a fellow in clinical toxicology are available for advice at any time, and generally rotate through a week of "on-call".

Daily duties include:

1. Managing poisoned patients within the Austin Emergency Department and those admitted to the wards or intensive care unit.

2. Following up poisoned patients referred to the VPIC from other hospitals within Victoria.
3. Responding to new referrals from the VPIC.
4. Discussing inpatient / ED / VPIC referrals with the on-call clinical toxicology consultant or fellow.
5. Entering Austin toxicology patients into an electronic database.

Other duties include:

1. Attend and actively participate in weekly toxicology case review and journal club meetings.
2. Actively participate in VPIC and Austin Toxicology Service research activities.
3. Contribute to the biannual Clinical Toxicology Forums, eg case presentation, topic review.

#### **All Employees:**

- Comply with Austin Health policies & procedures, as amended from time to time, which can be located on the intranet (The Pulse): [OPPIC](#)
- Report incidents or near misses that have or could have impact on safety - participate in identification and prevention of risks
- Comply with the Code of Conduct

## Key Selection Criteria

#### **Essential for Performance in the Position**

- A commitment to Austin Health values: Integrity, Accountability, Respect and Excellence.
- Registered medical practitioner in Victoria.
- Registered as a trainee with the ACEM.
- Possesses sound interpersonal and communication skills and the ability to work co-operatively with others.
- Commitment to ongoing personal and professional development, including credentialing with respect to the maintenance of professional standards.
- Relevant visa / entry requirements to Australia if non-Australian resident

#### **Desirable but not essential for Performance in the Position**

- A sound understanding of information technology including clinical systems and applications relevant to the management of rostering and risk management reporting or as required for the role and/or department.

## General Information

### **Austin Health is a Child Safe Environment**

Austin Health is committed to child safety. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers. Austin Health has zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously in line with legal obligations and our policies and procedures.

### **Equal Opportunity Employer**

Applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are encouraged to apply. For more information about working at Austin Health, please follow this link to Austin Health's Aboriginal Employment website: <http://www.austin.org.au/careers/Aboriginalemployment/>

## Document Review Agreement

<b>Manager Signature</b>	
<b>Employee Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	