

Position Description

Position	Cardiac Sonographer
Service / Directorate	Cardiology
Directorate	Sub-Speciality Medicine
District	Capital, Coast & Hutt Valley
Responsible to	Charge Cardiac Sonography
Children's Act 2014	This position is classified as a children's worker, requiring a safety check including police vetting before commencing and every three years
Location	Wellington Regional Hospital, flexibility to work across other Te Whatu Ora sites may be required.

Te Whatu Ora

The Health System in Aotearoa is entering a period of transformation as we implement the Pae Ora/Healthy Futures vision of a reformed system where people live longer in good health, have improved quality of life, and there is equity between all groups.

We want to build a healthcare system that works collectively and cohesively around a shared set of values and a culture that enables everyone to bring their best to work and feel proud when they go home to their whānau, friends and community. The reforms are expected to achieve five system shifts. These are:

1. The health system will reinforce Te Tiriti principles and obligations
2. All people will be able to access a comprehensive range of support in their local communities to help them stay well
3. Everyone will have equal access to high quality emergency and specialist care when they need it
4. Digital services will provide more people the care they need in their homes and communities
5. Health and care workers will be valued and well-trained for the future health system

Context

Capital, Coast & Hutt Valley district provides hospital and health services in primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare to a total population base of approximately 445,000 citizens.

We are accountable for meeting the needs of and improving health outcomes for all the constituent populations of our district, and the region more broadly. Together we:

- provide secondary and tertiary, medical and surgical hospital services alongside community based health care
- fund local health providers and work collaboratively with the community to create and support multiple health education initiatives and projects within the region

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- deliver health services directly as well as contracting external providers
- provide local, sub-regional, regional and national health services as well as community-based health, rehabilitation and support services.

The majority of the district's population live in Wellington and Lower Hutt. The Māori and Pacific populations of Lower Hutt and Wellington are proportionally similar, with the largest Pacific population in the region in Porirua. Kapiti and Upper Hutt have similar numbers of Māori and Pacific people. Most people are enrolled with a GP near their place of residence, so the increasing focus on community-based healthcare is expected to lead to better health outcomes for these population groups. Hutt Hospital provides secondary and some tertiary, medical and surgical hospital services alongside community based health care from its main facility in Lower Hutt City. In addition to funding local health providers and working collaboratively with the community to create and support multiple health education initiatives and projects, Hutt Hospital is the centre for five tertiary regional and sub-regional services - Plastics, Maxillofacial and Burns Services; Rheumatology; Dental Services; Regional Public Health; and Regional (Breast and Cervical) Screening Services.

Wellington Regional Hospital in Newtown is the region's main tertiary hospital with services such as complex specialist and acute procedures, intensive care, cardiac surgery, cancer care, neurosurgery and renal care. The hospital is the key tertiary referral centre for the lower half of the North Island and the upper half of the South Island.

Kenepuru Community Hospital and Kapiti Health Centre provide secondary and community services based in Porirua and the Kapiti Coast

MHAIDS is the mental health, addictions and intellectual disability service for the Wairarapa District and Capital, Coast & Hutt Valley District, with multiple specialist facilities. Ratonga Rua-o- Porirua is our forensic, rehabilitation and intellectual disability inpatient unit.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori Health Outcomes

Māori are the indigenous peoples of Aotearoa. We have particular responsibilities and accountabilities through this founding document of Aotearoa. We value Te Tiriti and have adopted the following four goals, developed by the Ministry of Health, each expressed in terms of mana and the principles of:

Mana whakahaere Effective and appropriate stewardship or kaitiakitanga over the health and disability system. This goes beyond the management of assets or resources.

Mana motuhake Enabling the right for Māori to be Māori (Māori self-determination); to exercise their authority over their lives, and to live on Māori terms and according to Māori philosophies, values and practices including tikanga Māori.

Mana tāngata Achieving equity in health and disability outcomes for Māori across the life course and contributing to Māori wellness.

Mana Māori Enabling Ritenga Māori (Māori customary rituals) which are framed by Te Aō Māori (the Māori world), enacted through tikanga Māori (Māori philosophy & customary practices) and encapsulated within mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge).

We will target, plan and drive our health services to create equity of health care for Māori to attain good health and well-being, while developing partnerships with the wider social sector to support whole of system change.

The Vision, Mission and Values from our District

We bring forward and join our values within our district. These will change as we become a team of teams within Te Whatu Ora.

Hutt Valley

- Vision:** Whanau Ora ki te Awakairangi: Healthy people, healthy families and healthy communities are so interlinked that it is impossible to identify which one comes first and then leads to another
- Mission:** Working together for health and wellbeing
- Ō mātou uara - Values:** Mahi Pai 'Can do': Mahi Tahi in Partnership: Mahi Tahi Te Atawhai Tonu Always caring and Mahi Rangatira being our Best

Capital and Coast:

- Vision:** Keeping our community healthy and well
- Mission:** Together, Improve the Health and Independence of the People of the District
- Values:** Manaakitanga – Respect, caring, kindness
Kotahitanga – Connection, unity, equity
Rangatiratanga – Autonomy, integrity, excellence

District Responsibility

The district leadership have collective accountability for leading with integrity and transparency a progressive, high performing organisation, aimed at improving the health and independence of the community we serve and achieving equitable outcomes for all. The leadership team are responsible for achieving this aim, aligned with our Region, within the available resources, through a skilled, empowered, motivated and supported workforce in line with government and HNZ policy.

Unit Perspective

The Cardiology Service is a secondary and tertiary service provided for Capital, Coast and Hutt Valley and those of the central region of New Zealand.

Cardiology at Capital, Coast and Hutt Valley includes:

- Outpatient Clinics
- Cardiac Diagnostic Testing
- The Heart and Lung Unit
- Specialist nurse clinics
- Cardiac Intervention Suite, providing the following procedures:
 - Coronary angiograms
 - Left & right heart studies
 - Coronary intervention & CTO
 - Balloon valvuloplasty
 - PFO/ASD closure
 - Pacemaker, ICD and CRT implants

- Electrophysiology studies, 3D mapping and RF and Cryo ablation
- TAVI
- Cardiac Physiology Service includes:
 - Pacing/ICD follow up service
 - Cath Lab, Implants and EP
 - Exercise Tolerance Testing
 - Ambulatory monitoring – Holters, Events and BP
 - Electrocardiography
 - Training Provisional Cardiac Physiologists, Cardiac Physiology Technicians and other Health Care staff
- Cardiac Sonographer Service includes:
 - Transthoracic Echocardiogram
 - Stress Echocardiogram
 - Transoesophageal Echocardiogram
 - ACHD/Paediatric Echocardiogram
 - Bubble/ Contrast studies
 - Assist with TOEs for structural heart disease
 - Balloon Valvuloplasty assist
 - TAVI
 - Starship Clinics
- Cardiac Surgery (part of Surgical Directorate)

Purpose of the role

The Cardiac Sonography team works collaboratively with cardiologists, nurses, medical radiation technologists, physiologists, administrative staff, and support teams to deliver a high-quality, efficient, and patient-centred service for both inpatients and outpatients.

The primary responsibility of the Cardiac Sonographer is to perform echocardiographic investigations, with the potential to undertake additional competencies within cardiac Sonography scope. Paediatric Echocardiography scanning experience preferred. The role is inherently patient focused and requires the consistent maintenance of high professional and ethical standards. Participation in an on-call roster and shared clinical overtime may be required to support service delivery.

The role requires a comprehensive understanding of ultrasound technology, anatomy and physiology, diagnostic interpretation, bio-effects, quality assurance and clinical and organisational responsibilities.

Ongoing education and professional development are essential to maintain competency and expertise. The Cardiac Sonographer is expected to develop in-depth knowledge of all technical and support tasks, participate in training activities, and contribute to service improvement. Additional duties, including limited administrative tasks, may be required to meet operational needs. While primarily based at Wellington Regional Hospital, flexibility to work across other Te Whatu Ora sites may be required.

Appointment to this role requires current registration with the Medical Radiation Technologists Board (MRTB) in the Sonographer – Cardiac scope of practice and a valid Annual Practising Certificate.

Key Accountabilities

The following role accountabilities may evolve with organisational change and there may be additional duties, relevant to this position that will be required to be performed from time to time.

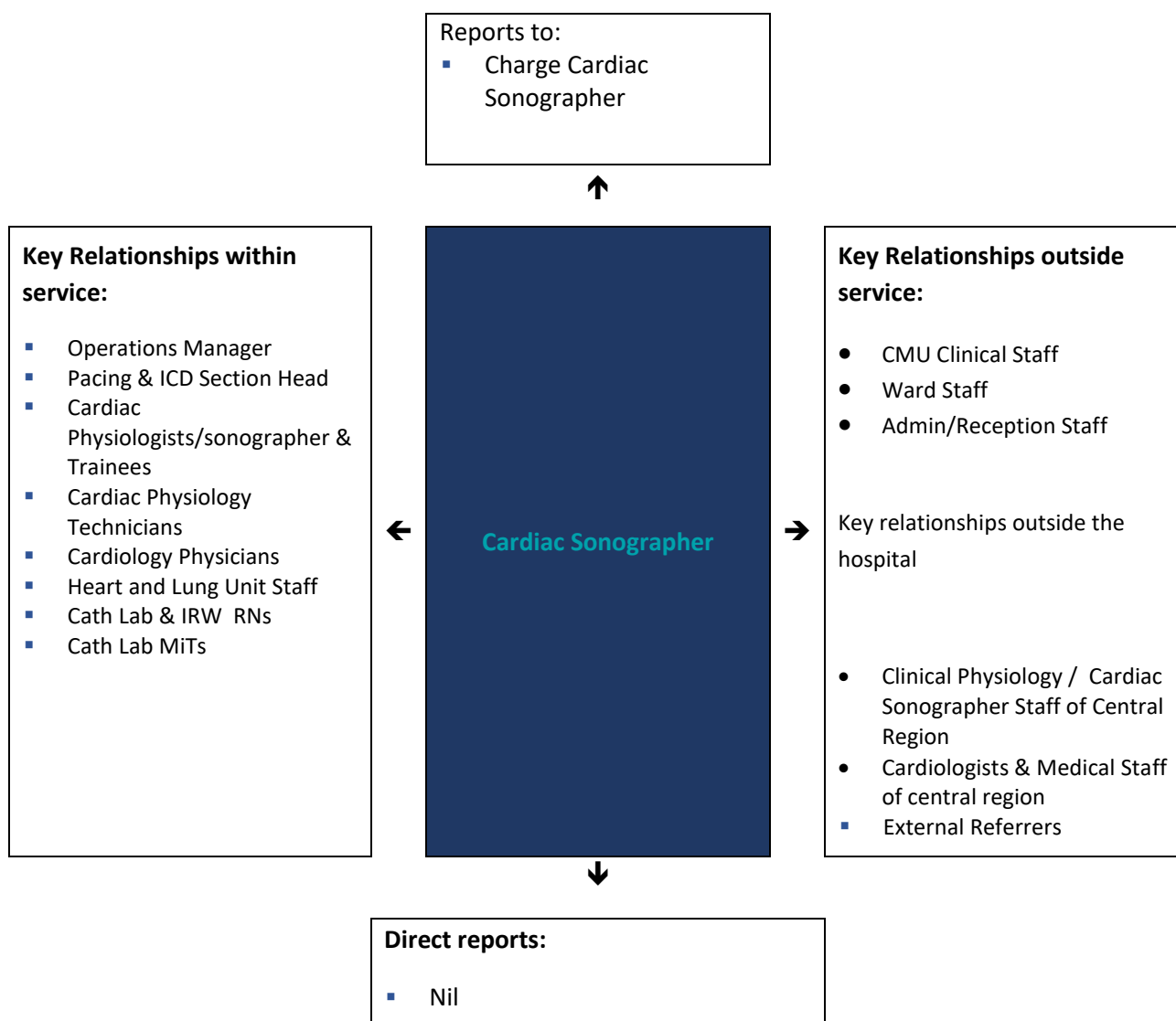
<i>Key Accountability</i>	<i>Deliverables / Outcomes</i>	<i>Key Performance Indicators/Measures</i>
1. Patient Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complies with CCDHB policy and procedures, including the Code of Conduct Demonstrates respect for patients' rights, comfort and confidentiality Ensures informed consent is adhered to where appropriate Encourages patient participation in procedures as appropriate Demonstrates cultural sensitivity in dealings with patients and their families/significant others Promotes customer satisfaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients choose to have their Cardiac test, understanding what the reason for the test Has positive patient feedback Minimal number of complaints directly relating to an individual's activities Observation by other team members describes an ability to relate well to patients and staff Follows processes for handling patient results and information
2. High Quality Diagnostic Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistently meet MRTB competency standards for competencies within scope of practice, and other relevant standards Follows all internal processes and guidelines for practice Efficient service delivery Patient focused 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All recordings are accurate and of as high quality as possible. Testing work and related tasks are performed in a timely manner Urgent pathology identified on Echo discussed with imaging register/ Cardiologist

<i>Key Accountability</i>	<i>Deliverables / Outcomes</i>	<i>Key Performance Indicators/Measures</i>
3. Maintaining Equipment & Supplies & Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment, supplies and testing rooms and team areas are maintained and stocked • Maintains current knowledge of correct technical operation of equipment, working within written operational guidelines/procedures • Contributes positively to equipment maintenance & cleaning programmes • Ensures equipment is maintained in good working order 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Machines and testing rooms are left clean & ready for their next users • Recordings are technically correct • Equipment failures are immediately notified to vendor • Performs equipment-user testing & calibration when required • Only uses equipment that meets electrical safety test standard • Restocking of machines
4. Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective & professional communication with all staff, patients, families and others regarding clinical care, in accordance with policies and procedures • Attends and participates in regular team meetings • Recognises and uses communication systems appropriately, e.g. paper processes, interpreter services • Ensures information given to others is accurate, up-to-date and recognises ethical, cultural, professional and statutory requirements • Seeks clarification from appropriate others if uncertain of intent of meaning of communications • Written and oral work-related communications are clear, with essential information conveyed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other staff and/or patients know what is happening and what they are required to do • Tasks are expedited • Is aware of dynamic processes, improvements, activities within the service • Achieves satisfactory rating in customer satisfaction surveys • Minimal number of complaints directly relating to an individual's activities • Paperwork is accurate and ends up in the correct places • Deals with differences of opinion in a timely, positive and non-confrontational manner • Conflicts are quickly and effectively resolved • Sound working relationships are established and maintained • Reports convey essential information without unnecessary complexity and are succinct

<i>Key Accountability</i>	<i>Deliverables / Outcomes</i>	<i>Key Performance Indicators/Measures</i>
5. Quality Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively participates in quality improvement activities • Understands and uses Reportable Event system • Participates in audit activities when required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides input toward development of new processes • Reportable Events are completed where appropriate • Audit work is evident
6. Hazard & Risk Management / Minimisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complies with responsibilities under the Health & Safety in Employment Act 1992 • Actively contributes to risk minimisation activities within the service • Actively participates in hazard identification and management processes • Actively supports and complies with health and safety policy and procedures • Proactively reports and remedies any unsafe work conditions, accidents & injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has read and understood health and safety policy and procedures • Practices role safely • Practices within Infection Control guidelines • Is aware of risks relevant to the service • Team Leader is made aware of new risks and updated with risk management initiatives in practice
7. Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintains education standard of a Cardiac Sonographer • Participates in ongoing professional development • Maintains CPR Skills • Active involvement in departmental & relevant external education and training sessions • Provides clinical supervision to junior colleagues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at education/training is for Annual Practising Certificate portfolio/requirements • Meets requirements of APC • Has knowledge of core Cardiac Sonographer competencies and other testing within scope of practice and sub-specialty practice. • Passes CPR skills training • Is up-to-date with professional standards

<i>Key Accountability</i>	<i>Deliverables / Outcomes</i>	<i>Key Performance Indicators/Measures</i>
8. Maintaining Professional Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complies with the MRTB and other relevant Codes of Conduct • Participates as a responsible, professional member of the Cardiology Services in the Central Region • Participates in research where relevant • Performance management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets with Charge Sonographer regularly and provides a monthly report outlining the progress against training plans, activity and service related issues • Performs other tasks as requested by the Charge Sonographer • Displays professional conduct at all times • Maintains own knowledge of latest developments in the field of Cardiology • Participates in personal performance management process in accordance with DHB policies and procedures

Key Relationships & Authorities



Capability Profile

Solid performance in the role requires demonstration of the following competencies. These competencies provide a framework for selection and development.

Competency	Behaviours
Composure	<p><i>Stays calm in spite of difficulties</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is cool under pressure Does not become defensive or irritated when times are tough Is considered mature Can handle stressful situations
Customer Focus	<p><i>Demonstrates commitment to understanding and providing what customers want.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is dedicated to meeting the expectations and requirements of internal and external customers Acts with service users in mind

Competency	Behaviours
Integrity & Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes and maintains effective relationships with customers and gains their trust and respect <p><i>Is seen as a direct, truthful individual.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is widely trusted • Is seen as a direct, truthful individual • Can present the unvarnished truth in an appropriate and helpful manner • Keeps confidences • Admits mistakes • Doesn't misrepresent her/himself for personal gain
Teamwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops constructive working relationships with other team members. • Has a friendly manner and a positive sense of humour. • Works cooperatively - willingly sharing knowledge and expertise with colleagues. • Shows flexibility - is willing to change work arrangements or take on extra tasks in the short term to help the service or team meet its commitments. • Supports in word and action decisions that have been made by the Team & or Charge Sonographer
Quality and Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides quality service to those who rely on one's work • Looks for ways to improve work processes - suggests new ideas and approaches • Explores and trials ideas and suggestions for improvement made by others • Shows commitment to continuous learning and performance development
Taking Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is results focussed and committed to making a difference • Plans and organises work, allocating time to priority issues, meeting deadlines and coping with the unexpected. • Adjusts work style and approach to fit in with requirements • Perseveres with tasks and achieves objectives despite obstacles • Is reliable - does what one says one will • Consistently performs tasks correctly - following set procedures and protocols
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practises active and attentive listening • Willingly answers questions and concerns raised by others • Responds in a non-defensive way when asked about errors or oversights, or when own position is challenged • Is confident and appropriately assertive in dealing with others • Deals effectively with conflict • Explains information and gives instructions in clear and simple terms
Cultural Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Words and actions show an understanding of the implications for one's work of Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles and Maori perspective as tangata whenua • Values and celebrates diversity - showing respect for other cultures and people's different needs and ways of living • Shows an awareness of gaps in, and a desire to increase, cultural knowledge and inter-cultural practice relevant to one's work • Accesses resources to make sure culturally appropriate and language appropriate services are provided • Draws on a client's own cultural resources and support frameworks

Experience and Capability

Knowledge and experience:

- A minimum of 2 years' experience as a Cardiac Sonographer and work independently
- Able to take a turn to provide outreach clinics as required once assessed and deemed competent
- A willingness to contribute to clinical teaching and supervision and to share knowledge through feedback and staff development activities
- ACHD/Paediatric Echocardiography scanning experience preferred

Essential Professional Qualifications / Accreditations / Registrations:

- Completion of a Graduate Diploma (DMU/QUT) or a postgraduate Diploma in Health Sciences (Cardiac Ultrasound) or an alternative MRTB, recognised Cardiac Sonographer qualification.
- Current registration with MRTB as a Sonographer (Cardiac scope) including a valid Annual Practising Certificate (APC) , or eligible to register with MRTB without scope restrictions as a Cardiac Sonographer upon successful employment.

Someone well-suited to the role will place a high value on the following:

- Working within a team for good outcomes for patients who access the Cardiology Diagnostic service.
- Building and developing high performing teams
- Promoting a positive & collaborative team environment
- Continuous improvement

Other:

- Holds a valid full drivers licence

**Ma tini, ma mano, ka rapa te whai
By joining together we will succeed**

Te Whatu Ora is committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles of partnership, participation, equity and protection by ensuring that guidelines for employment policies and procedures are implemented in a way that recognises Māori cultural practices.

We are committed to supporting the principles of Equal Employment Opportunities (EEO) through the provision and practice of equal access, consideration, and encouragement in the areas of employment, training, career development and promotion for all its employees.