

Position Description | Te whakaturanga ō mahi

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora

This position description is intended as an insight to the main tasks and responsibilities required in the role and is not intended to be exhaustive. It may be subject to change, in consultation with the job holder.

Title	Specialty Clinical Nurse - Gastroenterology
Reports to	Nurse Manager
Location	Capital, Coast & Hutt Valley (CCHV) District
Department	Wellington Gastroenterology
Date	14/07/2026
Salary band (indicative)ⁱ	NZNO Collective Agreement
Children's Worker roleⁱⁱ	Yes

Better Health, Better Care, Every Day.

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora is committed to providing high-quality healthcare for all New Zealanders. We are focused on improving access to care, delivering better health outcomes, achieving national health targets, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of our health system.

We know that great healthcare starts with great people. That's why we are committed to building a high-performing, inclusive workplace where our people are supported to grow, contribute, and make a real difference for patients, whānau, and communities across Aotearoa.

About the role

The primary purpose of the role is to:

Use in-depth knowledge to provide patient care and expertise in the gastroenterology department, Wellington hospital. The SCN works in a specialised practice area with more knowledge and skills than an expert Registered Nurse (RN). This role enhances health outcomes for the Wellington district patients and their whānau. This is by working directly with them to provide assessment, care and education.

As a senior nurse, the SCN contributes to service specific pathways, protocols and guidelines that reflect best practice, in accordance with current evidence to ensure high levels of safe care.

The SCN, gastroenterology, is responsible for:

- Ensuring patients are appropriately waitlisted within time frames as specified at triage.
- Patient coordination and communication
- Facilitating appropriate next steps (colonoscopy, CT colonography, alternative pathways, or return to GP) including placing and following up radiology requests for CTC (CT colonography)

- Supporting the gastroenterology administration team to ensure processes are in place for the sending of kits and follow-up of non-returned kits also involved with the FIT pathway
- Monitoring and actioning FIT results
- Support equity
- Effective service and pathway development specific to FIT, such as appropriate data bases, FIT for symptomatic Register, and other gastroenterology specifics
- Support efficient clinical triage

Key Result Area	Expected Outcomes / Performance Indicators
Professional Accountabilities	• Accepts responsibility for ensuring their nursing practice and conduct meet the standards of the professional, ethical, and relevant legislated requirements • Role models best practice and applies the principles of Te Tiriti O Waitangi in nursing practice • Applies Te Whatu Ora policies and processes and contributes to a safety culture for patients, whānau and staff • Maintains a strict sense of professional ethics, confidentiality and privacy and abides by the District Code of Conduct • Champions equity and diversity in the workplace • Ensures health and safety practice meet the requirements of health and safety at work legislation
Clinical Expertise	• Demonstrates expert clinical practice in gastroenterology • Prioritises and responds to referrals from members of the inter-professional team in response to identified criteria / service needs • Provides assessment, care planning and evaluation of the management of gastroenterology patients • Uses assessment findings to anticipate likely course of events and implements appropriate changes to patient care • Appropriately uses clinical judgement and decision making in implementing and modifying interventions • Provides effective care and advocacy through participating in patient review in collaboration with the healthcare team • Provides effective holistic support to patients and whānau • Accurately documents patient assessment, interventions, referrals and follow-ups • Demonstrates expert clinical practice in gastroenterology • Prioritises and responds to referrals from members of the inter-professional team in response to identified criteria / service needs • Provides assessment, care planning and evaluation of the management of gastroenterology patients • Uses assessment findings to anticipate likely course of events and implements appropriate changes to patient care • Appropriately uses clinical judgement and decision making in implementing and modifying interventions • Provides effective care and advocacy through participating in patient review in collaboration with the healthcare team • Provides effective holistic support to patients and whānau

	• Accurately documents patient assessment, interventions, referrals and follow-ups • Practices both autonomously and collaboratively within RN scope of practice, recognises limitations and consults or refers on appropriately
Leadership	• Contributes to achievement of strategic direction for defined speciality • Contributes to the high performance of the specialty and maintains a service-wide profile • Role models specialty clinical skills and professional nursing practice • Coaches and supports the nursing team • Promotes patient management that reflects current nursing knowledge, expected standards and best practice • Incorporates an awareness of relevant standards/policies on provision of care delivery within the service • Responds with constructive strategies to meet new challenges and actively supports change • Contributes to shared governance of nursing through engagement in relevant meetings, committees, and working parties and/or similar • Fosters and participates in peer review processes, case review and reflective practice
Interprofessional collaboration and provision of quality care	• Collaborates with colleagues and members of the health care team to facilitate and coordinate care • Establishes and maintains effective inter-professional relationships to achieve optimal patient and service outcomes • Evaluates nursing practice against standards and best practice guidelines to ensure culturally safe care with equitable outcomes • Identifies and contributes to quality improvement initiatives that support specialty goals • Contributes to the development of specialty specific policies, procedures, documentation tools and information resources to enhance patient outcomes, following agreed District process • Anticipates and manages clinical risk in specialty area • Appropriately reports and contributes to the investigation and resolution of adverse events
Education and Evidence based practice	• Provides specialty education • Optimises nursing practice based on current evidence and incorporating Te Ao Māori perspective and equity focus • Maintains high standard of required clinical competencies and technical expertise • Reads widely and uses evidence based practice to maintain currency and inform practice. • Proactive in furthering own professional development • Participates in local/national professional nursing or specialty groups • Maintains professional development to support role competencies and expanded practice when required for procedures.

Key Result Area	Expected Outcomes / Performance Indicators
Access and Outcomes	• Supports efforts to improve access to services and achieve better outcomes for the communities we serve. • Uses evidence and insights to identify barriers and opportunities for improvement. • Contributes to inclusive, responsive, and effective service delivery.
Te Tiriti o Waitangi	• Demonstrates a commitment to understanding and applying Te Tiriti o Waitangi in a practical and appropriate way. • Supports initiatives that improve outcomes for Māori and strengthen relationships with Māori partners and stakeholders. • Contributes to an inclusive workplace that values diversity and supports the attraction, development and retention of Māori employees.
Health & safety	• Exercises leadership and due diligence in Health and Safety matters and ensures the successful implementation of Health and Safety strategy and initiatives. • Takes all reasonably practicable steps to eliminate and mitigate risks and hazards in the workplace that could cause harm, placing employee, contractor and others' health, safety, and wellbeing centrally, alongside high-quality patient outcomes. • Leads, champions, and promotes continual improvement in health and wellbeing to create a healthy and safe culture.
Compliance and Risk	• Takes responsibility to ensure appropriate risk reporting, management and mitigation activities are in place. • Ensures compliance with all relevant statutory, safety and regulatory requirements applicable to the Business Unit. • Understands, and operates within, the financial & operational delegations of their role, ensuring peers and team members are also similarly aware.

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Matters which must be referred to your manager

- Employees are expected to escalate matters early to ensure patient safety, service, continuity and compliance with organisational and legislative requirements.
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Relationships

External	Internal
• Awanui Laboratories • Radiology • Primary Health Teams • Aged Care Providers • Community services e.g. Care Coordination services	• Endoscopy Lead, Gastroenterology • Clinical Lead, Gastroenterology • Senior nurses and nursing leadership • Nursing teams • Medical teams • Allied professionals

• SCN's working in similar roles in other NZ health districts, Te Whatu Ora • Non-Government Organisations, e.g. Maori, Pacific Health	• Other interdisciplinary team members • Patient administration services • Community Health Services • Clinical support services e.g. security orderlies, radiology, infection prevention control • Support services e.g. Māori and Pacific Health Units, Disability Services, Centre of Excellence
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About you – to succeed in this role

You will have

Essential:

- [Clinical Postgraduate (PG) Certificate is the required qualification (e.g. pathophysiology, advanced assessment) as provides essential clinical knowledge for the SCN role.
- RN registration with current APC and scope appropriate to area of practice.
- Clinical expertise and experience (2-3 years) aligning with gastroenterology practice.
- Expert level in Professional Development Recognition Programme (PDRP) and committed to maintain Senior PDRP when appointed to role.
- Excellent communication, interpersonal, facilitation and coordinating skills.
- Commitment to speciality practice development.

Desired:

- Experience in implementing Te Tiriti o Waitangi in action.
- Understands the NZ Health System including equity issues, with a focus on the speciality practice area]

You will be able to

Essential:

- Deliver results through effective planning, sound judgement, and personal accountability.
- Build trusted relationships and works collaboratively to achieve shared goals.
- Communicate clearly and adapts their approach to different audiences and situations.
- Demonstrate curiosity, adaptability, and a commitment to continuous improvement.
- Maintain high standards of professionalism, integrity, and ethical behaviour.
- Contribute to a positive, inclusive, and safe working environment.
Take responsibility for their own development and supports the development of others where appropriate.

Desired:

- Demonstrate an enthusiasm for ongoing nursing practice development and sharing that information.
- Demonstrate high quality care for the patient and whānau with a strong equity focus.
- Demonstrate practice informed by research evidence and quality improvement strategies.
- Demonstrate Innovation and critical thinking.
- Demonstrate a commitment to sustainable practice.
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ⁱ Salary band reference is for internal benchmarking and role sizing purposes only. The salary band designation is not a term or condition of employment and may be changed by the HNZ. Changes to the salary band will not affect an employee's current salary or remuneration.

ⁱⁱ The Children's Act 2014 makes provisions for the protection of children and helping them thrive, achieve and belong. At Health New Zealand, we safety check every children's worker. The purpose of this safety check is to reduce the risk of harm to young people and is a legal requirement for those employed in work that involves contact with children and young people including face-to-face, over the phone, or email contact. It is part of our commitment to ensuring the wellbeing and safety of children and young people. Your continued employment with Health NZ is conditional on a satisfactory safety check.