

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION: Dental Assistant - Community Oral Health Service

RESPONSIBLE TO: Dental Therapist Team Leader

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora Nelson Marlborough

Our vision | Tō tātou manako: All people live well, get well, stay well. *Kaiao te tini, ka ora te mano, ka noho ora te nuinga.*

Our mission | Tō tātou kaupapa: Working with the people of our community to promote, encourage and enable their health, wellbeing and independence. *Kei te mahitahi tātou hei whakapiki te oranga me te motuhaketanga o to tatou hapori.*

Our Values – Ō tātou whanonga pono

Respect | Manaakitanga: We care about, and will be responsive to, the needs of our diverse people, communities and staff. *Kia horahia te manaakitanga ki ngā iwi katoa me ngā hāpori, kaimahi hoki.*

Innovation | Auaha: We will provide an environment where people can challenge current processes and generate new ways of working and learning. *Kia auaha me whakahoutia i ngā pūkenga ākonga, me ngā mahi ki tēnei hāpori.*

Teamwork | Whakarāmemene: We create an environment where teams flourish and connect across the organisation for the best possible outcome. *Kia whakarāmemene i ngā kaipupuni hauora katoa.*

Integrity | Ngākau tapatahi: We support an environment which expects openness and honesty in all our dealings and maintains the highest integrity at all times. *Kia taea i te ngakau tapatahi i runga i te tika me te pono i ngā mahi katoa.*

PURPOSE OF POSITION

Developing skills and knowledge to ensure effective dental assistance is provided to clinicians and that the Community Oral Health Service (COHS) administration and hub functioning requirements are skilfully supported.

RESPONSIBILITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES
Clinical core tasks • Provide full chairside assistance for clinicians at the Community Oral Health Clinics, including set up and clean up • Process dental radiographs • Clinical Equipment care and reprocessing • Assigned clinical tasks	Working under the delegated authority of the Dental/Oral health Therapists, full dental assistance is given effectively and reaches defined standards as measured by periodic performance reviews and management patient feedback. Dental radiographs are processed in accordance with procedure guidance. Clinical equipment is reprocessed in accordance with COHS procedures Maintain high standards of infection prevention and control adhering to Health NZ Nelson Marlborough policies. Reprocessing of clinical equipment is undertaken efficiently according to procedures to ensure safe timely care is able to be undertaken. Delegated Tasks are efficiently completed in a timely way and to required standards including: - Patient education sessions - Sodium Fluoride varnish clinics
Administration • Use the electronic patient management database when required • Provide administration support to the Community Oral health Clinics where requested • Maintain clinic environment, equipment and consumables at an appropriate level. Communication • Conduct effective relationships with all Community Oral Health staff.	Assist with appointments according to instructions. Document delegated patient interactions in clinical records to expected standard. Data is accurately maintained and inputted into the electronic patient management data base. Community Oral Health Clinic administration requirements are supported. Working with the Dental Assistant team to maintain hub functions including - Stock levels are consistently maintained. - Equipment is cared for and maintained in accordance with hub requirements. Other responsibilities assigned are undertaken to the required standard. Effective and positively focussed relationships with staff, patient and parents are fostered and maintained.

• Develop and maintain rapport and provide effective communication with patients, parents/caregivers, and colleagues. • Participate effectively in meetings.	Proactively reporting issues when they arise and participating constructively with leadership to resolve issues. Meetings and continuing education actively participated in.
Quality Improvement	Support our teams to, at all times, provide a high quality, customer oriented and focused service, which follows evidence based practice. Pro-actively identifies areas for improvement and participate in quality improvement processes in area of work. Take part in areas of quality assurance as directed.
Professional Development	Participate effectively in Professional Development days. Participate in annual performance review process including review of performance goals and identification of areas for professional development.
General	Other relevant duties as requested. Meet obligations contained in Appendix 1 & 2.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

QUALIFICATIONS*Essential*

Year 11 – NCEA Level 1 English (or equivalent)

Year 11 – NCEA Level 1 Maths (or equivalent)

Valid Full drivers licence with no endorsements

KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

- Familiarity with health systems and terminology would be an advantage, but not essential
- Intermediate knowledge of Microsoft Office applications i.e.: Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook
- Keeps up to date with available information technology relevant to position
- Understands and complies with Health NZ Information Technology policies
- Have an understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- Excellent organisation and time management skills
- High standard of oral and written communication skills
- Ability to follow instructions and learn new skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work and relate well in a multi-disciplinary team
- Sound interpersonal skills and the ability to communicate successfully with a wide range of people
- Able to be flexible with a dependable self reliant work attitude

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Demonstrated ability to show personal initiative and motivation
- Ability to work/liaise closely with staff at all levels of the organisation
- Ability to contribute and participate effectively in a multidisciplinary team
- Ability to work under pressure, constantly prioritising as deadlines change
- Have integrity, the ability to work without supervision and respect the confidentiality and sensitivity of information
- Be sensitive to the clinical and cultural needs of staff, patients and the public
- Ability to work with a high degree of diplomacy and cooperation in order to provide quality service to internal and external clients
- Be versatile, innovative, flexible and possess the ability to adapt within a changing environment
- Committed to keeping up to date with relevant literature and ongoing self development
- Be able to demonstrate strong customer orientation
- Be able to travel if required

APPENDIX 1

General Responsibilities of an Employee of Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora Nelson Marlborough

1. Professional Responsibilities

As an employee of Health NZ Nelson Marlborough, you are required to:

- Maintain any qualifications, including registrations and practising certificates, required for legal and safe practice.
- Keep yourself up to date on knowledge, best practices and legislation relating to your work.
- Make a personal contribution towards effective and efficient working relationships within your team and with other Health NZ Nelson Marlborough departments.
- Ensure you carry out your work in a way that is customer-focused and meets professional standards.
- In conjunction with your manager, identify your own training needs and plan to meet these needs.
- Manage your own time and prioritise your work effectively.

2. Health, Safety and Wellbeing

- Compliance with all health and safety legislative requirements.
- Compliance with the ACC Partnership Programme requirements.
- Compliance with all organisation-wide health and safety policies and procedures.
- Compliance with the Health and Safety Manual, any relevant chemical information and the emergency plan.
- Work is carried out in a healthy and safe manner and others are encouraged and assisted to work in the same way.
- Unsafe workplace conditions/practices (hazards) are identified, reported and mitigated/rectified early.
- Knowledge of identified hazards is kept up to date.
- Reportable event form is completed (via *Safety First*) for any accident or injury which has taken place at work, ensuring, in the case of injury, that your supervisor or manager is notified within 24 hours.
- Co-operation, support and promotion of occupational health and safety actions and initiatives in the workplace.

3. Right to Raise Concerns

- All employees of Health NZ Nelson Marlborough are expected and encouraged to immediately ask questions and raise any concerns/issues with their colleagues at their place of work, particularly if the care of a patient could potentially be compromised.
- All staff are expected to act professionally and to actively listen to the concerns or opinions of others being raised at the time.

4. Child Wellbeing and Protection

- Health NZ Nelson Marlborough is committed to identifying, supporting and protecting vulnerable children. The prevention of abuse and enhancing the wellbeing of children and their families aims to keep vulnerable children safe before they come to harm so they can thrive, achieve and belong. As an employee you are required to comply with all relevant legislation e.g. the Vulnerable Children Act 2014 and the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1989. You are also required to:
- Contribute to and support the organisation's strong commitment to a child centred approach to protect children across the region.
- Act at all times in the best interest of the children and young people, putting their interests first.
- Ensure collaborative working practices and recording and sharing of information to address abuse, suspected abuse or disclosure of abuse in a timely and appropriate fashion.

5. Legislation, Regulations and Board Policies

You are required to be familiar with and adhere to the provisions of:

- All relevant acts and regulations
- All Board, hospital and department policies
- All relevant procedure manuals
- The “Employee Obligations” within Health NZ Nelson Marlborough’s Disciplinary Policy.

6. Confidentiality

You are required to:

- Adhere to the Privacy Act 1993, the Health Information Privacy Code 1994 and subsequent amendments in regard to the non-disclosure of information.
- Maintain strict confidentiality of patient, applicant and employee information at all times.

7. Risk Management

You are required to:

- Support and promote actions and initiatives in your work area which enable risks to be identified and eliminated or reduced.
- Be especially aware of those risks which have high cost or safety implications.
- Complete an accident/incident report for any accident, incident or near miss which has taken place at work.
- Respond to complaints according to appropriate policies.

8. Security

You are required to:

- Wear your identification badge at all times when on site or when carrying out official duties.
- Notify Human Resources of any changes required for your ID badge.
- Report any suspicious or unusual occurrence to the security officer, orderly or telephone operator.
- Complete an incident report for any incident which has or might have compromised the safety of staff, patients and visitors.

9. Treaty of Waitangi

Health NZ Nelson Marlborough is committed to its obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi. As an employee you are required to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi: Partnership, Participation and Protection.

10. Smokefree

Health NZ Nelson Marlborough is a Smokefree Organisation. This applies to all staff and contractors working within Health NZ Nelson Marlborough buildings, grounds and vehicles. Staff are required to comply with the policy and ensure all visitors, patients and others are informed of the policy. This also applies to Health NZ Nelson Marlborough staff employed on Board business in the community.

APPENDIX 2

The preferred candidate is required to complete a Pre-Employment Health Questionnaire. The table below outlines the tests to be carried out - depending on the nature of the position applied for.

Condition	Information to include in Position Description
TB Active	No person with active pulmonary or laryngeal tuberculosis (TB) is allowed to be at work in Health NZ Nelson Marlborough
TB Latent	Staff who expect to have contact with patients or infectious materials must have assessment of previous TB exposure at the time of employment
BBV	No person who is susceptible to hepatitis B is allowed to have contact with patients or human materials (e.g., blood) unless they have taken part or agree to take part in a blood-borne virus education, prevention and vaccination program
MRSA	No person colonised or infected with methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA) is allowed to work in clinical areas ¹ New staff who will be working in clinical areas should be screened for MRSA if they have: • a chronic skin condition • been working in an overseas healthcare facility in the last year • been MRSA-positive in the last year
Skin	No person with a skin condition that by virtue of its site and type could be an infection risk is allowed to have contact with patients, food, microbiology samples or sterile items
Measles/Rubella	No person who is susceptible to measles or rubella is allowed to have contact with pregnant women.
VZV	No person susceptible to varicella-zoster virus (chickenpox) is allowed to have contact with newborn babies or pregnant women
EPP	No person who has detectable hepatitis B e antigen or high levels of hepatitis B virus DNA in their serum is allowed to undertake or assist with exposure-prone surgical procedures ²

¹Clinical areas include inpatient medical and surgical wards (includes Medical Units, AT&R Units, Surgical Wards, Paediatrics, Day Stay, Neonates and Women's Health). Screening does not apply to staff working in outpatient areas (e.g., clinics, Radiology, Respiratory Function lab) or in DSS, Mental Health or Drug and Alcohol services (transmission of MRSA is less likely and infection is rare in these sites.)

²Exposure-prone surgical procedure = a procedure where there is the potential for direct contact between the skin (usually finger or thumb) of the health care worker and sharp surgical instruments, needles, or sharp tissues (spicules of bone or teeth) in a blind or highly confined anatomic site such as a body cavity or in poorly visualised and/or confined body sites. Such sites include body cavities encountered during emergency and trauma procedures, abdominal, cardiothoracic, obstetric/gynaecological, orthopaedic and oral surgery.