

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION: Health Care Assistant (VRM pool)

RESPONSIBLE TO: Charge Nurse Manager

PROFESSIONAL REPORTING TO: Director of Nursing and Midwifery

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

To assist and support Registered Nurses/Enrolled Nurses in the delivery of good quality patient care which ensures that services are provided efficiently, safely and effectively.

RESPONSIBILITIES	EXPECTED OUTCOMES
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accepts accountability to client, RN/EN and Health NZ (Nelson Marlborough) - Undertakes functions and activities as directed and delegated by the RN/EN - Seeks assistance and guidance from RN/EN when encountering situations beyond training and/or when undertaking delegated tasks - Understands different levels of accountability and range of personnel available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complies with legislative and Health NZ (Nelson Marlborough) Policies and Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is aware of and works within legal frameworks - Adheres to Health NZ (Nelson Marlborough) policies and procedural guidelines - Raises concerns with RN/EN or CNM in situations of potential harm, injury or accident.
Patient Care (Delegated and directed by Registered Nurse/Enrolled Nurse)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can accurately describe activity or tasks required in relation to patient care - Uses acquired knowledge and skills when fulfilling requirements of the role - Recognises and reports problems, issues, concerns with patients to RN - Delivers care according to delegation of RN/EN and in accordance with nursing and Health NZ (Nelson Marlborough) standards and procedures - Understands and provides care appropriate for cultural needs of patients - Is aware of Treaty of Waitangi principals and applies these in relation to Maori patients - Demonstrates awareness of resources available for assisting patients with changes in health, disability or death - Provides support in the development and/or maintenance of independent living skills - Demonstrates understanding of and application of infection control principles.
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Undertakes delegated aspects of health data collection within level of competence - Reports changes that may affect health and well being of patients - Reports observations and other aspects of care delivery as delegated by RN/EN.
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contributes information related to patients that will assist RN/EN with care planning - Directs questions related to care plan from patients to RN/EN - Reports concerns regarding patients ability to understand and make decisions to RN/EN - Keeps records of patient activities and reports these to RN/EN.
Care Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assists with all care delivery under the direction and delegation of RN or EN - Records tasks undertaken and observations accurately and in a timely manner

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifies and reports unexpected or changing patient status - Summons immediate assistance in an emergency or disaster situation - Applies life support skills until assistance arrives - Contributes information to the evaluation of progress toward expected patient care outcomes - Operates within scope of work to initiate, develop and support patient care - Manages assigned work within agreed timelines with RN/EN - Identifies and reports situations which may impact on patient safety.
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintains relationships with patients that respects boundaries between patient and self - Listens to patients in an unbiased manner, respecting patients rights - Communicates clearly and accurately about patient status - Maintains confidentiality - Recognises conflicts and utilises effective interpersonal skills and organisational supports to resolve same - With visitors, patients, patient's relatives, answering the phone and conveying messages about patients, contributing to nursing handover and documentation of patients personal information as delegated by the RN/EN.
Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following completion of orientation programmes, you will be required to register on the NZQA Career Force Level 3 Health and Wellbeing Certificate programme. This pathway will be included with your offer of employment - Participates in unit based education and learning activities - Offers suggestions and feedback to RN and CNM for changes to sphere of own work - Participates in annual performance review process including review of performance goals and identification of areas for professional development.
Patient hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assisting with activities of daily living including care of patients hair, teeth, skin and general hygiene as delegated by the RN/EN.
Urinary, Bowel and Stoma care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Routine stoma care under RN/EN direction and delegation - Assisting patients with toileting, changing and emptying catheter bags, reporting urinary output to the RN/EN.
Patient physical comfort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of comfort and support to patients within the ward/unit including assisting with pressure area care, reporting all skin changes - Ensuring appropriate footwear (to reduce falls risk) and ensuring a full property check is provided on discharge.
Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assisting patients with meals completing food and fluid balance charts accurately and reporting any issues to RN/EN as required.
Preparation of patient/equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assisting with equipment/patient for treatment, investigation or procedures as directed by RN/EN.
Infection prevention and control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adhering to all Health NZ (Nelson Marlborough) policies - Assists with all isolation procedures as delegated by the RN/EN.

IV therapy care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May observe and report any signs of canula site inflammation, irritation, leaking from site or other abnormalities noticed to the RN/EN.
Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May participate in basic admission and discharge procedure as required by RN/EN.
Mobilisation/rehabilitation of patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist with patient mobilisation on direction from the RN/EN or multi-disciplinary team professional.
Care of the deceased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May assist in the care of the deceased as requested by RN/EN.
Observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Any signs of sudden patient deterioration or collapse will be reported immediately to the RN/EN.
Quality Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation in quality improvement processes in your area of work - A quality, customer-focused service is provided at all times, which follows best practice.
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other duties as requested by the RN/EN - Obligations contained in Appendices 1 & 2 are met.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

QUALIFICATIONS*Essential*

- Year 11 NCEA level 1 English (or equivalent)
- Year 11 NCEA level 1 Maths (or equivalent)
- NZQA Level 3 qualification (or equivalent)*

Desirable

- Home Carer Certificate (or equivalent)

Mandatory

*NZQA Level 3: New Zealand Certificate in Health and Wellbeing - Health Assistance Strand.
(If not previously attained, to be completed within 2 years of commencement or to be commenced within 1 year of employment.)

KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE

- Previous experience in an acute hospital environment (desirable)
- Basic knowledge of Microsoft Office applications ie: Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook
- Keeps up to date with available information technology relevant to position
- Understands and complies with Health NZ (Nelson Marlborough) Information Technology policies

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- Be a strong team player, supportive of colleagues and open to new ideas
- Have well-developed interpersonal skills
- Actively listens, draw out information and checking understanding
- Co-operate and liaise with others in a multi-disciplinary setting
- Ability to work with people of all ages
- Express information effectively, verbally, written including electronic skills (such as email)
- Have an awareness of own skills and limitations, knows where and when to seek assistance, and willing to contribute at all times
- Must be able to accept instructions and feedback
- Motivated and willing to learn on the job
- Accept and carry responsibility, use initiative and be self-motivated
- Have sound judgment and maturity
- Have high energy levels and be able to work in an environment that requires many different duties
- Be physically able to carry out key tasks
- Flexibility and adaptability to accommodate service demands as directed by the CNM/RN/EN
- Be able to work across hospital sites if directed by the Team Leader to do so to meet service requirement needs
- Have good organizational and time management skills
- Presentation must be neat, tidy and professional
- Be interested in working with people
- Have a good record of health and fitness

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.