






POSITION DESCRIPTION

SCHN - Advanced Trainee Clinical Toxicology / Public Health - NSW Poisons Information Centre / NSW Ministry of Health (2024)

  Collaboration  Openness  Respect  Empowerment	
Organisation	NSW Health
Local Health District / Agency	The Sydney Children's Hospitals Network
Position Classification	JMO Advanced Trainee
State Award	Public Hospital Medical Officers (State) Award
Category	Medical Officers Clinical Pharmacology
Website	www.schn.health.nsw.gov.au

PRIMARY PURPOSE

The Clinical Toxicology / Public Health Advanced Trainee will work as a part of the public health and toxicovigilance team at the NSW Poisons Information Centre (PIC), a statewide service hosted by the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (SCHN) and NSW Ministry of Health.

The Advanced Trainee will:

- Contribute to statewide public health response to signals involving severe and atypical poisoning or detection of high-risk substances.
- Work as part of the Toxicity Response, Epidemiology and Surveillance team in the Centre for Alcohol and Other Drugs, Population and Public Health Division, NSW Ministry of Health. The Division responds to the public health aspects of major incidents or disasters in NSW, monitors health, identifies trends and evaluates the impact of health services.
- Collaborate with other parts of the NSW Ministry of Health, including Health Protection and Pharmaceutical Regulatory Unit and the various Local Health Districts and Specialty Networks.
- Perform follow-up through calls and review of medical records to ascertain outcomes and collect additional history.
- Develop skills in clinical toxicology and public health.
- Develop skills in poisoning risk assessment and management (NSW PIC and the clinical toxicology service at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital)
- Understand the principles of poisoning data collection, toxicovigilance and research at the PIC.
- Develop an understanding of electronic poisoning information resources.
- Participate in review and quality improvement activities, as well as delivering training and education.
- Contribute to statewide surveillance activities in poisoning through collection, analysis and reporting of data.
- Develop briefs, media releases, public health alerts, clinician safety advisories and project proposals for novel surveillance systems.

This position is approved for advanced training with The Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine (AFPHM) and provisionally approved with Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

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RESPIRATOR USE

NSW Health workers may be required to use a respirator, as part of their appointment with NSW Health. Where a respirator is required for use, workers will be instructed in their safe use; including donning, doffing and fit checking. Staff may be required to complete fit testing to selected respirator/s to assess their facial fit/seal.

At all times when a health worker is required to use a respirator, the health worker must not have any facial hair present. Processes are in place to support workers that need to keep facial hair due to religious observance requirements and/ or health conditions.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

- MBBS or equivalent, currently registered or eligible for registration with the Medical Board of Australia in an appropriate registration category
- College Registration: Classified as an Advanced Trainee at the commencement of the fellowship and preferably have at least 6 months experience in a relevant clinical area
- This position is subject to an appropriate supervision level which can be supported by the health agency. If the incumbent's registration conditions include supervision requirements, the level of supervision must be able to be supported by the health agency for this role
- Orientation: Attendance at the Hospital's Clinical Orientation Program on the first day of commencement and attendance at department specific orientation as required
- Mandatory Training: Completion of Hospital and NSW Health Mandatory Training requirements including HETI on line Mandatory Training requirements, Fire Training, and IT training
- Child Protection Training: Complete mandatory Child Protection Training. Child Protection Training includes the HETI online and targeted face to face training and needs to be completed once only. If you have completed mandatory Child Protection Training at another recognised New South Wales institution you must provide evidence of completion in the form of a certificate of attendance or transcript of training prior to commencement
- To be employed by NSW Health you are required to provide evidence of vaccination to comply with the NSW Health Occupational Assessment, Screening & Vaccination against Specified Infectious Diseases Policy, this includes any amendments made from time to time
- Valid NSW Working with Children Check
- Cleared National Police Check

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Contribute to clinical toxicology services for optimal patient outcomes for calls referred to the PIC.
- Contribute to clinical governance and optimal care by systematic follow-up of selected cases referred to the PIC. Document consultation in the PIC database and eMR where available.
- Lead case management and provide clinical toxicology and/or public health support in conjunction with their supervisory team to the NSW Ministry of Health by investigating and responding to reports of serious or unusual clinical presentations that may be related to substance use, as part of the PRISE program (<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aod/programs/Pages/prise.aspx>). This includes supporting the identification and transfer of appropriate clinical and physical specimens to Forensic and Analytical Science Service (FASS), and liaison with the relevant local clinicians and FASS staff.
- Identify and support statewide policy and program relevant opportunities for research, evaluation and quality improvement, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and PIC clinical network.
- Assist in collaborative development of public drug warnings and clinician safety alerts on high risk detections and support harm reduction measures such as take-home naloxone.

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- Assist with NSW contributions to the collaborative multi-agency harm reduction networks Emerging Drugs Network of Australia and Prompt Response Network.
- Provide education to internal and external stakeholders in either clinical toxicology or public health.
- Utilise information systems to enable informed decision making and care planning.
- Comply with relevant legislation and regulations, NSW Ministry of Health policies and Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (SCHN) procedures to assist in meeting Activity Based Funding, Commonwealth and State targets.

KEY CHALLENGES

- This position requires demonstrated initiative and the capacity for lateral thinking in order to establish and validate an integrated and cohesive public health/toxicology presence in Australia.
- Manage competing priorities from NSWPIC and the Ministry of Health, adhering to the organisational requirements of two distinctly unique organisations.
- This is an evolving position that requires a high level of flexibility and adaptability to cope with consistently changing demands and environment, sometimes in a short timeframe.

KEY RELATIONSHIPS

Who	Why
Centre for Alcohol and Other Drugs, NSW Ministry of Health	Contribute to statewide public health surveillance and response to poisoning and detection of high risk substances.
NSWPIC Medical Director & Clinical Leads, Clinical Toxicologists, and Specialists in Poisons Information	Contribute to clinical toxicology services and work as a part of public health and toxicovigilance team with the Specialists in Poisons Information and Clinical Toxicologists.
Other parts of the NSW Ministry of Health	Collaborate with the Ministry to identify and support statewide policy change to improve public health outcomes.
Regulatory agencies	Reporting of poisoning and public health data, discussion and implementation of toxicovigilance strategies to enhance safety through regulatory change.
Hospital clinicians including but not limited to ED & ICU	Relationship building, increase training and education capacity in either clinical toxicology or public health.

SELECTION CRITERIA

1. MBBS or equivalent, currently registered or eligible for registration with the Medical Board of Australia in an appropriate registration category.
2. Minimum 4 years full time equivalent postgraduate years and significant experience in Internal medicine,

POSITION DESCRIPTION

SCHN - Advanced Trainee Clinical Toxicology / Public Health - NSW Poisons Information Centre / NSW Ministry of Health (2024)

- Emergency or Intensive Care medicine or equivalent or Public Health.
3. Completed or currently participating in an advanced training program at an Australasian training body or recognised international equivalent (preferred).
 4. Demonstrated recent clinical experience in a relevant area of medicine.
 5. Demonstrated skills in public health, epidemiology or biostatistics and the use of data for surveillance or harm minimisation purposes (preferred).
 6. Demonstrated high level capacity to set and manage competing priorities.
 7. Demonstrated effective clinical communication through the use of information technology and excellent oral, written and interpersonal skills.
 8. Demonstrated commitment to teaching, training, research and quality improvement, including experience in scientific writing.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Model the NSW Health CORE Values of Collaboration, Openness, Respect and Empowerment
- Move between services and geographical locations to deliver patient care or other clinical services as required
- Participate in patient rounds (or equivalent) and clinical handover, to transfer information, accountability and responsibility for a patient or group of patients, following the ISBAR protocol, National Australian Standards. Clinical handover happens within and between Medical, Surgical, Emergency, Paediatric and Critical Care teams
- Abide by all conditions/provisions of employment as outlined in the relevant Award
- Conduct all required responsibilities and tasks of the role in a manner that is consistent with legislation, local and state-wide delegations, procedures, policies and manuals, which include but are not limited to the following areas:
 - NSW Health Code of Conduct
 - performance management and development
 - work, health and safety
 - records management
 - confidentiality and privacy
- All staff are expected to take reasonable care that their acts and omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of others, that they comply with any reasonable instruction that is given to them and with any policies/procedures relating to health or safety in the workplace, as well as notifying any hazards/risks or incidents to their managers
- For accredited training roles, comply with the relevant specialist medical college's training and examination requirements
- Participate in Term/Annual Performance Reviews in consultation with the relevant Head of Department/Supervisor and comply with other requirements as determined by the relevant College training program or Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) guidelines
- Act as role model and promote a culture and supporting practices that reflect the organisational values through demonstrated behaviours and interactions with patients/clients/employees
- Comply with supervision requirements as set out by AHPRA

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Job Demands for: SCHN - Advanced Trainee Clinical Toxicology / Public Health - NSW Poisons Information Centre / NSW Ministry of Health (2024)

Physical Demands	
<p>Respirator use - Wearing of a respirator, to ensure protection against exposure to respiratory pathogens/ hazardous materials</p> <p>Infrequent</p>	<p>Sitting - remaining in a seated position to perform tasks</p> <p>Constant</p>
<p>Standing - remaining standing without moving about to perform tasks</p> <p>Infrequent</p>	<p>Walking - floor type: even/uneven/slippery, indoors/outdoors, slopes</p> <p>Occasional</p>
<p>Running - floor type: even/uneven/slippery, indoors/outdoors, slopes</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>	<p>Bend/Lean Forward from Waist - forward bending from the waist to perform tasks</p> <p>Infrequent</p>
<p>Trunk Twisting - turning from the waist while sitting or standing to perform tasks</p> <p>Occasional</p>	<p>Kneeling - remaining in a kneeling posture to perform tasks</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>Squatting/Crouching - adopting a squatting or</p>	<p>Leg/Foot Movement - use of leg and/or foot to</p>

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<p>crouching posture to perform tasks</p> <p>Infrequent</p>	<p>operate machinery</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>Climbing (stairs/ladders) - ascend/descend stairs, ladders, steps</p> <p>Infrequent</p>	<p>Lifting/Carrying - light lifting and carrying (0 to 9 kg)</p> <p>Infrequent</p>
<p>Lifting/Carrying - moderate lifting and carrying (10 to 15 kg)</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>	<p>Lifting/Carrying - heavy lifting and carrying (16kg and above)</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>Reaching - arms fully extended forward or raised above shoulder</p> <p>Infrequent</p>	<p>Pushing/Pulling/Restraining - using force to hold/restrain or move objects toward or away from the body</p> <p>Infrequent</p>
<p>Head/Neck Postures - holding head in a position other than neutral (facing forward)</p> <p>Infrequent</p>	<p>Hand and Arm Movements - repetitive movements of hands and arms</p> <p>Frequent</p>
<p>Grasping/Fine Manipulation - gripping, holding, clasping with fingers or hands</p>	<p>Work at Heights - using ladders, footstools, scaffolding, or other objects to perform work</p>

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Occasional	Not Applicable
Driving - Operating any motor powered vehicle	
Not Applicable	

Sensory Demands	
<p>Sight - use of sight is an integral part of work performance (e.g. viewing of X-Rays, computer screens)</p> <p>Constant</p>	<p>Hearing - use of hearing is an integral part of work performance (e.g. Telephone enquiries)</p> <p>Constant</p>
<p>Smell - use of smell is an integral part of work performance (e.g. working with chemicals)</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>	<p>Taste - use of taste is an integral part of work performance (e.g. food preparation)</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>Touch - use of touch is an integral part of work performance</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>	

Psychosocial Demands	
Distressed People - e.g. emergency or grief	Aggressive and Uncooperative People - e.g.

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<p>situations</p> <p>Infrequent</p>	<p>drug/alcohol, dementia, mental illness</p> <p>Infrequent</p>
<p>Unpredictable People - e.g. dementia, mental illness, head injuries</p> <p>Infrequent</p>	<p>Restraining - involvement in physical containment of patients/clients</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>Exposure to Distressing Situations - e.g. child abuse, viewing dead/mutilated bodies</p> <p>Infrequent</p>	

Environmental Demands	
<p>Dust - exposure to atmospheric dust</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>	<p>Gases - working with explosive or flammable gases requiring precautionary measures</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>Fumes - exposure to noxious or toxic fumes</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>	<p>Liquids - working with corrosive, toxic or poisonous liquids or chemicals requiring PPE</p> <p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>Hazardous Substances - e.g. dry chemicals, glues</p>	<p>Noise - environmental/background noise necessitates people raise their voice to be heard</p>

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Not Applicable	Infrequent
Inadequate Lighting - risk of trips, falls or eyestrain Not Applicable	Sunlight - risk of sunburn exists from spending more than 10 minutes per day in sunlight Not Applicable
Extreme Temperatures - environmental temperatures are less than 15°C or more than 35°C Not Applicable	Confined Spaces - areas where only one egress (escape route) exists Not Applicable
Slippery or Uneven Surfaces - greasy or wet floor surfaces, ramps, uneven ground Infrequent	Inadequate Housekeeping - obstructions to walkways and work areas cause trips and falls Infrequent
Working At Heights - ladders/stepladders/scaffolding are required to perform tasks Infrequent	Biological Hazards - exposure to body fluids, bacteria, infectious diseases Not Applicable