Clinical Nurse Specialist – Palliative Care

Position Description

Date: November 2014

Job Title: Clinical Nurse Specialist – Palliative Care

Department: Hospital Palliative Care Service

Location: North Shore Hospital / Waitakere Hospital, Medicine and Health People Division

Reporting To: Clinical Director Palliative Care collaborative achievement of palliative service strategic plan and performance
Unit Manager Home Health & NASC, Older Adults & Home Health performance objectives and contribution at senior nurse level Clinical Nurse Director Older Adults & Home Health for the safety of professional practice

Direct Reports: Nil

Functional Relationships with:

Internal
- Palliative Care Service
- Palliative Care Clinical Director
- Physicians/Surgeons
- Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Nurse Educators
- Director of Nursing and Midwife
- Nurse Advisors
- Charge Nurse Managers
- Ward Staff
- Pain Team
- Pharmacy
- Laboratory
- District Nursing Service

NASC
- Allied Health Staff
- Nursing Development/Nurse Educators
- Telephonists
- Orderly Services
- Equipment Co-coordinator

External
- Patients /significant others
- Hospices in Auckland Region
- General Practitioners
- Practice Nurses
- Tertiary services
- Other Palliative Care Teams

Purpose:
Advanced practice nursing role that provides specialist advice on symptom management and approaches to care delivery for patients presenting with palliative care / end of life needs and coordination of care across primary, secondary and tertiary care settings. Teaches / coaches in use of support care delivery and supports best practice initiatives.
# Clinical Nurse Specialist – Palliative Care

## Position Description

### KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

#### Domain One  
**Professional responsibility**

*Includes accountabilities for professional, legal, ethical and culturally safe practice. This includes being able to demonstrate advanced critical thinking, judgement and accountability for own actions and decisions*

- Meets all registered nurse PDRP competencies at minimum of RN Level 4 requirements
- Perceived as highly effective, progressive and knowledgeable in area of practice, according to legal, ethical, cultural safety/ sensitivity and professional standards.
- Applies critical reasoning and professional judgement to nursing practice issues and decisions for patients at risk
- Provides advanced practice specialist nursing care in direct care delivery, contributing to the development of integrated service delivery across the continuum of care – one to one patient management and impact on practices/processes of care on populations of patients at local and system level
- Role models/leads by example and enhances advanced nursing practice and contributes to the profession locally, regionally and nationally
- Undertakes or leads specific service or organisational portfolio responsibilities, optimising patient safety

#### Domain Two  
**Management of nursing care at advanced practice level**

*Includes accountability related to patient/client assessment and management of advanced nursing care that is supported by evidence*

- Work in close consultation with the Lead Medical Team in the assessment, diagnosis, treatment planning and follow-up care of patients.
- Provide skilled nursing diagnostic care/intervention for palliative care patients requiring assessment, follow up and end of life care. Acts as a resource to ward staff, providing updates on appropriate symptom relief and evidence-based practice. Demonstrates appropriate expert knowledge, to share good practice and to promote excellence for palliative care at courses, meetings and conferences as appropriate.
- Work in accordance with the Palliative Care Team protocols, policies and procedures.
- Role models consistent best practice palliative care.
- Works collaboratively with staff referring patients with palliative care needs, offering advice and making recommendations for symptom management, appropriate care and support for discharge planning following a comprehensive assessment. Develops holistic individualized care plans; providing education, case and system review for the clinical team.
- Provides specialist nursing care and expertise both in direct care delivery and in support to other staff in the management of a defined patient group/area of specialty practice.

- Provides patient education to patient and family to improve patient outcomes and gain participation with their treatment
- Acts as a nursing resource providing expert advice and education to nursing staff and health care professionals / family-whanau within specialty scope of practice, demonstrating skilled mentoring/coaching, teaching and supervision. May teach at post registration level to enhance evidence based practice
### Domain Three  Interpersonal relationships and enhancing the patient experience
*Includes accountability for interpersonal and therapeutic communication with clients/patients and members of the health care team.*

- Demonstrates clinical and professional leadership through effective teamwork and collaborative relationships
- Ensures cultural beliefs, practices and support of individuals, their family and carers is central to all interventions.
- Role models advanced therapeutic communication, engages patient and family in care planning for self-care, improving knowledge of disease/illness, self-management, prevention of complications and promotion of recovery

### Domain Four  Interprofessional healthcare and quality improvement to deliver organisational objectives
*Includes accountability for evaluating the effectiveness of care and promotion of nursing perspective within the health care team*

#### Supports Professional Activity

- Provides teaching – nursing and medical education; participates in clinical governance activities including audit and research; Administration – organisational requirement; contribution to service planning and policy development; professional development
- Assists in the implementation of nursing practice and models of care appropriate to patient/client population needs

#### Quality Improvement:

- Leads the development/review of best practice pathways, protocols and guidelines in the specific area of practice that are research based. Change agent/leader
- Leads/contributes/collaborates in quality & care improvement processes, risk management and resource utilisation review, including trending and auditing and developing appropriate responses – educational, policy, advisory at patient, nurse and system level
- Identifies efficiencies through new and innovative ways of working, improve quality of care and patients experience

#### Service Development

- Participates in service development and strategic leadership to enhance the patient experience, application of values in practice. Undertakes/leads specific or organizational portfolio responsibilities. Includes assisting in implementation and management of initiatives to address differential access to healthcare services for Maori.
- Participates in clinical audits and Palliative Care Team Quality program.

#### Research & Audit; Evidence based practice

- Researches, evaluates, develops and implements standards of nursing practice in the specific area of practice and supports practice improvements. Works to ensure recommended best practice guidelines/policies are research based and relevant across Waitemata DHB
- Fosters inquiry, critical thinking and research skill acquisition to advance nursing practice and patient/client care. Supports other staff in the clinical management Engages locally, regionally and nationally to promote palliative care accessibility and best practice. Represents the Palliative Care Team at meetings within the Auckland region and nationally as appropriate. Keeps up-to-date with national/local policy development and change in relation to palliative care and disseminates appropriately within Waitemata DHB.
- Confident use of technology. Critiques and uses research findings in practice. Participates in research.
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Workplace Health & Safety

- Recognises Individual Responsibility for Workplace Health and Safety under the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992. Policies are read and understood and relevant procedures applied to their own work activities. Workplace hazards are identified and reported, including self-management of hazards where appropriate.

VERIFICATION:

Employee: _______________________
Manager: _______________________
Date: ____________

Note: This job description forms part of an individual’s contract of employment and must be attached to that contract.

Service description:

Identified population served by the role and patient type/client group, specialty needs, treatments offered:

Adults with palliative care needs at Northshore and Waitakere Hospitals. Patients presenting for care changes over time. Nurse initiated care according to credentialing documents, approved protocols, and standing orders. Consultation with medical staff is required as part of professional collaboration.

Area of advanced nursing specialty practice:

Palliative Care according to credentialing document and specialty competencies. Potential for career pathway transition to Nurse Practitioner scope of practice should this be available in the service.

The scope of the role including the setting that care will be delivered in e.g. local, regional, national, hospital, clinical or community settings:

Advanced practice role, working within clinical pathway/guidelines/protocols and standing orders for patient groups.

Innovative, evidence based nurse-led solutions to meet patient demand for palliative care services.

Key points of integration and collaboration with other teams, services or providers:

Close working relationship with Medical Specialists and teams.

Engaged with CNS in specialty, across WDHB, regionally and nationally.

Anticipated outcomes of care:

Formally presents caseload and outcome statistics.

Variance to clinical pathway and length of stay explained/managed/monitored [data].

Specific Key Responsibilities/KPIS relevant to specialty role:

Assessment and management of patients presenting with palliative care needs acutely to Emergency Department according to care pathways:

Initiates assessment and treatments according to care pathways, liaising with medical team. Initiates ordering of diagnostic tests in order according to best practice guidelines and evaluates outcomes.

Implements agreed care plan and treatments, using standing orders /protocols managing care to discharge/ transfer.

Accepts specific accountabilities relating to nominated roles e.g. End of Life Coordinator. Suggest appropriate referral to other clinical disciplines in a timely manner.

Follows up care outcomes in liaise with specialist services and general practice to reduce readmission.

Values and Behavioural competencies: Adheres to Waitemata District Health Boards 4 Organisational Values
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Position Description

of:

Every single person matters, whether a patient / client, family member or a staff member

We see our work in health as a vocation and more than a job. We are aware of the suffering of these entrusted to our care. We are driven by a desire to relieve that suffering. This philosophy drives our caring approach and means we will strive to do everything we can to relieve suffering and promote wellness.

We need to be connected with our community. We need to be connected within our organisation – across disciplines and teams. This is to ensure care is seamless and integrated to achieve the best possible health outcomes for our patients/clients and their families.

We seek continuous improvement in everything we do. We will become the national leader in health care delivery.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

POSITION TITLE: Clinical Nurse Specialist - Palliative Care

| Education and Qualifications | • RCPN, RGON, BHSC. Current APC as Registered Nurse  
• Post Graduate Certificate in palliative care /similar essential.  
• Working towards: Post Graduate Diploma Palliative Care Nursing, with evidence of advanced physical assessment, history taking, diagnostic reasoning, and pharmacology knowledge |
| Experience | • At least three years post registration practice in the specialty, multidisciplinary team practice  
• Achieved RN Level 4 or equivalent in specialty with current portfolio  
• Reputation for excellence in specialty practice  
• Understands the patient journey across multiple health care providers, with the ability to smooth communications and access to services. |
| Skills/Knowledge/Behaviour | • Advanced physical assessment, history taking, diagnostic reasoning and pharmacology knowledge  
• Demonstrated operational management/care coordination skills  
• Clinical professional leadership  
• Confident multidisciplinary teacher  
• Project management and quality improvement processes  
• Demonstrated confidence in quality improvement to improve service delivery  
• Confident in application of basic computer programs including Microsoft Outlook, Windows and Excel and report writing |
| Personal Attributes | Leadership  
People management  
Teamwork  
Cultural safety  
Self-management  
Patient/client population focused  
Communication / interpersonal skills  
Innovation  
Flexibility  
Planning and monitoring  
• Proactive attitude  
• Excellent communicator  
• Articulate, good presentation skills  
• Self-directed and motivated  
• Strong teamwork reputation, confident collaboration  
• Resilience  
• Positive professionally mature  
• Able to influence without conflict, accepts |
constructive feedback
- Culturally safe practice