
POSITION TITLE	Diabetes Dietitian
CLASSIFICATION	Dietitian Level 1 / 2
AWARD	NSW Health Service Health Professionals (State) Award

PURPOSE OF POSITION

Provide a high quality dietetic service across multiple sites within the Greater Newcastle Cluster to ensure the provision of high quality specialised medical nutritional therapy for patients with diabetes and their carers.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

- Provide patient centred medical nutritional therapy to patients, carers and other health care professionals to ensure delivery of innovative clinical practice models and therapeutic techniques.
- Provide medical nutritional therapy and education to patients with diabetes in an individual or group setting.
- Ensure patient care is delivered within professional, organisational, legal and ethical boundaries and reflects current evidence based, best practice knowledge and practice in the delivery of safe and effective care.
- Liaise with other care and service providers to ensure seamless continuum of care from hospital to community that meets the needs of patients and carers.
- Participate in continuous improvement initiatives to enhance service delivery and patient outcomes.
- Work within risk management, safety, infection control and quality frameworks applicable to the organization.
- Maintain professional knowledge and skills by actively contributing to own professional development.
- Act in accordance with the HNE Health Values Charter and the NSW Health Code of Conduct.
- Participate in relevant patient safety and quality education and deliver services in accordance with the National Patient Safety and Quality Standards, Work Health & Safety Act and NSW Health risk management frameworks.
- Ensure that work is conducted in a manner that demonstrates values of cultural respect in accordance with HNE Health's Closing the Gap strategy.
- Actively work to improve workplace safety within HNE Health by:
 - Performing work in a manner that is safe and does not pose a risk to others
 - Complying with all WHS policies, procedures and education provided by HNE Health
 - Reporting any identified safety matters
 - Speaking up about safety issues, including speaking to colleagues who are observed to work in an unsafe manner

CHALLENGES

Major challenges for the occupant of the position include:

- Applying evidence based practice while dealing effectively and efficiently with a broad range of clinical issues.
- Prioritising competing clinical demands.
- Providing care to patients with complex medical backgrounds.
- Tailoring teaching styles and provide appropriate nutrition education, nutrition advice and resources to those with CALD backgrounds and low literacy levels.

COMMUNICATION

Communicate effectively with the Service Manager and other staff within the GNC Diabetes Service and Acute Diabetes Service and foster close relationships with other units and services within HNE Health and other relevant organisations to enhance the patient experience of a continuous seamless health support journey.

Communicate with multidisciplinary team regarding clinical and operational matters in the interests of good teamwork and high quality service delivery.

Key Internal Relationships

- Service Manager for operational management, professional leadership and support.
- Medical staff for clinical leadership.
- Administrative and clinical staff in GNC Diabetes Service, the Acute Diabetes Service medical staff and relevant staff in other HNELHD Health Services, including Senior Diabetes Dietitians and Diabetes Educators.
- Other diabetes and general health service staff to support holistic service provision.

Key External Relationships

- Patients and carers regarding care.
- General practitioners and practice nurses.
- Pharmaceutical companies and Australian Diabetes Council for education, information and collaborative consumer-focussed care.
- Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Services and Primary Health Networks.

DECISION MAKING

The position holder:

- Is responsible for the day to day clinical decisions relating to patient care. Advice may be sought from a more senior professional if necessary.
- Consults with the Service Manager on major policy issues or conflicts arising in the course of his/her duties.
- Refers to the Service Manager, any decision that falls outside routine clinical and operational service delivery parameters and any unusual care requirements.
- Other decisions should be made in collaboration with a more senior health professional.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Tertiary qualifications in Nutrition and Dietetics and eligible for full membership of the Dietitians Association of Australia.
- Experience in the nutritional management of patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes and diabetes in pregnancy.
- Demonstrated experience and ability to work positively and effectively in a multidisciplinary team
- Demonstrated ability to work autonomously and to perform novel and complex tasks
- Demonstrated excellent written and verbal communication skills, including group education skills.
- Demonstrated ability to provide student supervision and clinical supervision of staff when required.
- Computer literacy skills and knowledge of Hunter Patient Information Systems (iPMS, CHIME, DMR, CDMS).
- NSW Drivers' License.