Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Position Description | Te whakaturanga ō mahi

Title	Rheumatologist			
Reports to	Clinical: Clinical Director, Dept Rheumatology, Immunology and Allergy Operational: Service Manager			
Location	Christchurch Hospital			
Department	Rheumatology, Immunology and Allergy			
Direct Reports	N/A	**Total FTE**	0.7 with 0.2 job size	
Budget Size	**Opex** N/A	**Capex**	N/A	
Delegated Authority	**HR** N/A	**Finance**	N/A	
Date	23/10/2026			
Job band (indicative)	Medical and Dental Specialists (including principal dental officers) Steps 1 - 15			

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The Health System in Aotearoa is to provide all tangata (people) equity of health care. The Pae Ora/Healthy Futures vision is where people live longer in good health, have improved quality of life, and there is equity between all groups.

We are building a healthcare system that works collectively and cohesively around a shared set of values and a culture that enables everyone to bring their best, be safe and feel proud when they go home to their whānau, friends and community.
Our shared values are:

1. The health system will reinforce Te Tiriti principles and obligations.
2. All people will be able to access a comprehensive range of support in their local communities to help them stay well.
3. Everyone will have equal access to high quality emergency and specialist care when they need it.
4. Digital services will provide more people the care they need in their homes and communities.
5. Health and care workers will be valued and well-trained for the future health system.

Te Mauri o Rongo – The New Zealand Health Charter

The foundation for how we ensure our people are empowered, safe and supported while working to deliver a successful healthcare system, is Te Mauri o Rongo – the New Zealand Health Charter. It guides all of us as we work towards a healthcare system that is more responsive to the needs of, and accessible to all people in Aotearoa New Zealand.

It applies to everyone in our organisation and sits alongside our code of conduct as our guiding document. Te Mauri o Rongo consists of four pou (pillars) within it, including:

Wairuatanga – working with heart, the strong sense of purpose and commitment to service that health workers bring to their mahi.

Rangatiratanga – as organisations we support our people to lead. We will know our people; we will grow those around us and be accountable with them in contributing to Pae Ora for all.

Whanaungatanga – we are a team, and together a team of teams. Regardless of our role, we work together for a common purpose. We look out for each other and keep each other safe.

Te Korowai Āhuru – a cloak which seeks to provide safety and comfort to the workforce.

These values underpin how we relate to each other as we serve our whānau and communities.

Together we will do this by:
- caring for the people
- recognising, supporting and valuing our people and the work we all do
- working together to design and deliver services, and
- defining the competencies and behaviours we expect from everyone.

About the role

The primary purpose of the role is to:
As a Consultant Rheumatologist, you will join our Rheumatology, Immunology and Allergy Department at Christchurch Hospital. You will deliver predominantly outpatient-based services, supported by a senior team comprising three other SMOs, an advanced trainee in rheumatology, a specialist clinical nurse, and a research nurse.

You will collaborate with other hospital specialties by providing consultation advice. The inpatient and day unit component of the role is modest, allowing for strong continuity of care within the outpatient setting.

Task	**To provide medical diagnostic, investigative, treatment and consultative services.**
Expected Result	• Hold regular outpatient clinics as required. • Attend inpatient rounds and relevant ward meetings. • Provide a consultative service to inpatients as required. • Attend regular radiology and histopathology review sessions. • Participate in planned patient discharge and interdisciplinary communications. • Participate in planning and management sessions for the Department of Rheumatology/Immunology.
To provide training and educational programmes as required	• Participate in department training sessions.

	• Participate in and contribute to the Grand Rounds and Continuing Medical education programmes of the hospital and Department of Rheumatology, Immunology and Allergy. • Maintain standards of own professional practice in accordance with international practice. • To assist referring agencies in their understanding of clinical specialty practice and the services available.
To participate in the post-graduate and undergraduate training programmes	• Teaching supports postgraduate and undergraduate medical training. • Supervision is maintained for postgraduate and undergraduate clinical experience. • Positive relationships are built with referring departments and teaching institutions. • Practice reflects internationally accepted standards.
To maintain clinical competence.	• Inter collegial sharing of expertise occurs.
Non-clinical Responsibilities	• Department administration activities. • Participation in achieving the relevant Health NZ goals, targets and expectations • Continuing professional development and medical education. • Audit and quality improvement activities. • Supervision and oversight responsibilities of nurses and registrars • Assisting with the Rheumatology registrar training in accordance with the requirements of the Royal College of Physicians of Australasia. • Participates in Credentialing • Participation in performance review process.
Professional Standards	• The New Zealand Medical Association's code of ethics. • The Royal Australasian College of Physicians • The Medical Council of New Zealand • The Health and Disability Commissioner • Health NZ Waitaha policies and procedures, providing these are consistent with other provisions in this agreement
Te Tiriti o Waitangi	• Remains focused on the pursuit of Māori health gain as well as achieving equitable health outcomes for Māori. • Respects the cultural values and aspirations of Māori workers, employers and communities • Actively supports kaimahi Māori by improving attraction, recruitment, retention, development, and leadership.

Equity	• Commits to helping all people achieve equitable health outcomes. • Help create a workplace that allows everyone to achieve their full potential. • Shows a willingness to personally take a stand for equity. • Supports Māori-led and Pacific-led responses.
Innovation & Improvement	• Is open to new ideas and create a culture where individuals at all levels bring their ideas on how to 'do it better' to the table. • Tries new approaches, willing to learn, and able to adapt.
Collaboration and Relationship Management	• Models good team player behaviour, working with colleagues to not allow silo thinking and behaviour at decision making level to get in the way of doing our best and collegially supports others to do the same.
Health & safety	• Exercises due diligence in Health and Safety matters and ensures the successful implementation of Health and Safety strategy and initiatives. • Takes all reasonably practicable steps to eliminate and mitigate risks and hazards in the workplace that could cause harm, placing employee, contractor and others' health, safety, and wellbeing centrally, alongside high-quality patient outcomes. • Willing to support continual improvement in health and wellbeing to create a healthy and safe culture.
Compliance and Risk	• Takes responsibility to ensure appropriate risk reporting, management and mitigation activities are in place. • Ensures compliance with all relevant statutory, safety and regulatory requirements applicable to the Business Unit. • Understands, and operates within, the financial & operational delegations of their role.

Matters which must be referred to the Clinical Director Rheumatology Immunology & Allergy or Service Manager

- Any such activity that is outside of prescribed scope of practise
- Any such activity that is outside of day-to-day operations and cannot be reasonability handled within designated authority.

Relationships:

External	Internal
• Staff of other national and international services and clinical pathways • Medical research facilities, both nationally and internationally	• Service Manager • General Manager – Medicine, Women's & Children, Oncology • Clinical Director • Staff within Health NZ • Immunology and CHL staff

About you – to succeed in this role:

You will have	**Essential:** • Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians • Evidence of ongoing professional and personal development. • A current Annual Practicing Certificate. • Medical indemnity insurance. **Desired:** • Proven experience in autoimmunity, with peer reviewed publications. • Experience in teaching of Registrars, medical students and scientific staff • Demonstrated skill in clinical research.
You will be able to	**Essential:** • Demonstrate an understanding or willingness to learn the significance of and obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi • Demonstrate empathy with patients, public, and staff at all levels. • Able to work under pressure and have the ability to prioritise competing clinical requirements. • Take care of own physical and mental wellbeing, and have the stamina needed to go the distance. • Maximise the quality and contributions of individuals and teams to achieve our vision, purpose and goals. • Establish and maintain positive working relationships with people at all levels with all communities (internal and external) • Demonstrate a strong drive to deliver and take personal responsibility. • Demonstrate self-awareness of your impact on people • Demonstrate the highest standards of personal, professional and institutional behaviour through commitment, loyalty and integrity. • Have excellent written and oral communication skills. **Desired:** • A keen attitude to grow and develop within the role • Ability to question and show an inquisitive mind to challenge the routine to find better pathways forward.

This position description is intended as an insight to the main tasks and responsibilities required in the role and is not intended to be exhaustive. It may be subject to change, in consultation with the job holder.