

Position Description

Position Title	Mental Health Hospital Medical Officer
Position Number	30100433
Division	Clinical Operations
Department	Mental Health
Enterprise Agreement	Doctors In Training (Victorian Public Health Sector) (AMA Victoria/ASMOF) (Single Interest Employers) Enterprise Agreement 2022-2026
Classification Description	Hospital Medical Officer
Classification Code	HM12 – HM17
Reports to	Professional: Clinical Director/ Unit Head Operational: Medical Workforce Unit
Management Level	Non Management
Staff Capability Statement	Please click here for a link to staff capabilities statement
Mandatory Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Police Record Check • Working with Children Check • Registration with Professional Regulatory Body or relevant Professional Association • Drivers Licence • Immunisation Requirements

Bendigo Health

Bendigo Health is a leading regional health service, learn more about us by visiting our website: [Bendigo Health Website - About Bendigo Health](#)

As an organisation we are committed to delivering safe, inclusive and high-quality care to our diverse communities across the Loddon Mallee Region. We value and respect the unique backgrounds, cultures and experiences of the people we serve and those who work with us.

We are a proud child safe organisation, dedicated to the safety, wellbeing and voice of all children and young people. We are committed to creating a culturally safe and welcoming environment where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples—adults, children and families—are respected, supported and empowered to express and celebrate their culture.

Our Vision

To be a trusted regional healthcare service recognised for delivering exceptional care, being a great place to work, and being deeply connected to our community.

Our Values

PASSIONATE – We are passionate about doing our best – for our patients, our colleagues and our community.

ACCOUNTABLE – We take ownership of our actions and outcomes, always striving for integrity and improvement.

CARING – We care deeply for our community – and our community cares for us. Compassion is at the heart of everything we do.

TRUSTWORTHY - We are open, honest and respectful in all that we do – earning the trust placed in us every day.

The Position

This Mental Health HMO position is suitable for applicants seeking a 12 month position which could include a placement in any of the following rotations (3 rotations each year plus below service rotation):

- Inpatient Mental Health Units – Acute Adult, Older Persons, Extended Care and Parent & Infant Unit
- Residential Units – Adult Prevention and Recovery Care (APARC), Community Care Unit, Dual Diagnosis Unit, or Youth Prevention and Recovery Care (YPARC)
- Mental Health Community Teams – Bendigo, Castlemaine, Maryborough, Kyneton, Echuca and Swan Hill

Each Mental Health HMO will also be required to undertake at least 1 three month service rotation per year, either leave cover position or evening shift backfill position.

All staff at Bendigo Health should have, or aspire to the personal qualities, knowledge and skills as described in the Bendigo Health Staff Capabilities Statement. Refer to link at top of page.

Responsibilities and Accountabilities

Key Responsibilities

Clinical duties

- Regular attendance according to the roster.
- Provision of clinical duties according to unit specific guidelines and procedures.
- Daily ward rounds of inpatients as required and participation in regular duties such as outpatients clinics as per duty roster.
- Provision of patient care including: taking a comprehensive psychiatric and medical history; performing a competent physical examination with appropriate interpretation of signs; constructing a differential diagnosis and basic management plan.
- Provision of clinical support for other HMOs where this may be required due to workload or other unforeseen circumstances.

Professionalism

- Engage in critical thinking and take an evidence-based approach to medicine
- Recognise own limitations and practise within the appropriate clinical scope
- Seek help and escalate patient care to a more senior level when needed
- Take responsibility for ensuring that factors such as fatigue, illness and stress in self and other staff do not adversely affect patient outcomes.

Communication

- Communicate clearly and concisely with all other healthcare professionals involved in a patient's care.
- Demonstrate effective communication at breaking bad news and demonstrate appropriate situational communication response.
- Legibly document the history, clinical findings and management plan in the hospital unit record, including a detailed and accurate record of the patient's status on admission.
- Write suitable progress notes identifying changes in principal clinical problems and management plans, results of investigations and procedures performed and their interpretation.

Medical Records

- Thoroughly and promptly correlate and record in the medical record the information obtained from its various sources, in an appropriate and ongoing manner, from the initial assessment, treatment, clinical progress and investigations, and to succinctly record this in a discharge summary at the time of discharge.
- Understand and be involved in the process of discharge planning from the time of patient admission until discharge. Ensure concise discharge summaries are completed before the time of patient discharge.
- Prepare reports as required for the Mental Health Tribunal (MHT) and as appropriate attend MHT hearings for presentation of these reports.

Education and training

- Attendance at training sessions appropriate to your level of training is actively encouraged. Unit specific activities are listed in the individual unit guide handbooks.
- Build on prior clinical experience as the basis for future independent professional practice.
- Engage in regular clinical supervision sessions with your supervising consultant.

Communication

- Demonstrate effective communication at breaking bad news and demonstrate appropriate situational communication response.
- Communicate clearly and concisely with all other healthcare professionals involved in a patient's care, supported by structured communication templates and cognitive aids
- Legibly document the history, clinical findings and management plan in the hospital unit record, including a detailed and accurate record of the patient's status on admission.
- Write suitable progress notes identifying changes in principal clinical problems and management plans, results of investigations and procedures performed and their interpretation.

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Employees are required to carry out lawful directions outlined above or delegated to them. The work to be performed is set out in this position description and, where relevant, any professional standards and codes of conduct and ethics issued by the relevant professional association.

Key Selection Criteria

Essential

1. MBBS or equivalent degree with current General, Limited or Provisional Registration with AHPRA (level 2 supervision minimum)
2. Prior experience working in psychiatry with minimum of 3 months experience.

Desirable

3. Well-developed clinical skills for the effective assessment and treatment of patients with mental illness.
4. Demonstrated knowledge of the Victorian Mental Health Act 2022.
5. Thorough understanding of the relevant legislation pertaining to Medical Officers
6. High level interpersonal and communication skills and the ability to communicate confidently and appropriately with patients and their families and other health professionals
7. Evidence of on-going professional development to continually update personal medical knowledge and skills
8. Ability to effectively use organisational skills (incorporating documentation, time management skills, critical thinking and priority setting)
9. Ability to operate in an environment of change
10. Ability to work as an effective team member in a multi-disciplinary environment as well as independently (under appropriate supervision)

Generic Responsibilities

All Bendigo Health staff are required to:

- Adhere to the **Victorian Government's Code of Conduct**
- Uphold **Occupational Health and Safety** responsibilities, including self-care, safeguarding others, and participating in safety initiatives and reporting.

- Comply with all **Bendigo Health policies and procedures**, including those related to clinical, managerial, and standard work practices.
- Follow **Infection Control** procedures to prevent cross-contamination and ensure the health and safety of all.
- Maintain **strict confidentiality** regarding all organisational, patient, and staff information.
- Engage in **continuous quality improvement** activities aligned with the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (NSQHSS).
- Recognise and respect **diversity**, fostering inclusive practices in the workplace and service delivery.
- Support research activities in alignment with the National Clinical Trials Governance Framework to ensure high-quality, safe, and ethical clinical trials and research practices across Bendigo Health
- Staff must carry out all lawful and reasonable directions and comply with relevant professional standards and ethical codes.
- Safeguard children and young people in our care, by ensuring that your interactions are positive and safe, and report any suspicions or concerns of abuse by any person internal or external to Bendigo Health.
- Maintain ability to perform the inherent requirements of this role. Inherent requirements are the essential tasks necessary to perform this role, including reasonable adjustments. Bendigo Health is committed to a safe workplace that supports all employees. The role may require specific physical and cognitive abilities, which can be discussed with the manager during recruitment or at any time. We understand that personal circumstances can change and impact your ability to meet these requirements; additional policies are available to guide you through this process. Please request the relevant procedures for more information.

All Bendigo Health sites, workplaces and vehicles are smoke free.

This position description is intended to describe the general nature and level of work that is to be performed by the person appointed to the role. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required. Any elements of this document may be changed at Bendigo Health's discretion and activities may be added, removed or amended at any time.