

New Zealand College of Critical Care Nurses' Position Statement (2025) on the role of the New Zealand Critical Care Clinical Research Nurse.

This document replaces the 2011 Position Statement by the Critical Care Nurses' Section:
The role of the New Zealand Critical Care Clinical Research Coordinator.

Background

Research is an integral part of critical care and the presence of an active research program and the employment of a research coordinator in Level III ICUs is mandated by the CICM Minimum Standards of Intensive Care. Translation from research into practice can lead to the potential for better patient outcomes.

NZNO and Te Rūnanga o Aotearoa, Te Tiriti o Waitangi (te Tiriti) partner supports incorporation of te ao Māori perspective that upholds values of tikanga Māori concepts to support nurses achieve their aspirations, contribute to workforce retention, recruitment, stability, and lead while dealing with the challenges of working in a health care environment that is diverse clinically, professionally, and culturally.

Honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi

All health professionals have a duty care to apply equity and ethical standards of healthcare provisions in policy, research, access, care, and participation.

The following five key principles were recommended in the 2019 *Hauora* (Health) report from the Waitangi Tribunal Wai 2575 claim that honoured Te Tiriti o Waitangi in response to health and disability system. All five have also been considered in Pae Ora – Healthy Futures Bills and are critical to acknowledging the interest and rights of Māori. They include (but not limited to):

1. Tino rangatiratanga
 - a. Māori are key decision-makers in the design, delivery, prioritisation, and monitoring of health services.
2. Equity
 - a. Equity requires commitment to achieving equitable health outcomes for Māori. In the process, clinicians, hospital administrators and public health policy makers should not lose focus on identifying, acknowledging, and addressing existing inequities experienced by Māori.
3. Active protection
 - a. Active protection ensures, to the fullest practicable extent, that the health and disability system achieves equitable health outcomes for Māori.
4. Options
 - a. Options means that the health and disability system is agile in adapting and responding with emphasis on kaupapa Māori health and disability services to be able to serve Māori communities adequately.
5. Partnership
 - a. Partnership means leadership works alongside Māori leaders to enable a coordinated and united response with Māori receiving adequate resources to govern, design, deliver, manage, and monitor a response and the impacts of the pandemic or emergency on Māori communities.

The five principles in association to the Tiriti articles obligation support guidelines in defining roles.

Purpose

The aim of this position statement is to define the role of the Critical Care Research Nurse.

Definition: A critical care nurse who is employed to assist in the management and co-ordination of clinical trials and clinical research on the ICU (Bell, 2009). This includes:

- Critical care is a highly specialised area where nurses work in environments with multiple disciplinary teams.
- Demonstrate high standards of clinical and cultural competency.
- Demonstrate research experience and have supported or understand kaupapa maori research methodologies,
- Coordinate clinical trials, monitor for adverse events and protocol violations, participate in data entry and evaluation.
- Oversee and be responsible for safe practice standards.
- Support continued education and embed a research culture into the workplace across the teams.
- Act as a patient advocate – ensuring patients and/or whanau know that participation in research is completely voluntary. That they have the right to say yes or no without pressure, judgment or detrimental impact on the care they will receive.

Outcome

Good quality clinical research and clinical trials will be conducted within scientific, ethical, and professional standards. All clinical trials have clear methodologies that are well managed, culturally safe and evidence based. The critical care research nurse ensures adherence to and knowledge of the International Council on Harmonization (ICH) of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) and the New Zealand Good Clinical Research Practice (GCRP) guidelines.

References and related documents

Bell, J. (2009). Towards clarification of the role of research nurses in New Zealand: A literature review. *Nursing Praxis in New Zealand*, 25(1), 4-16.

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Mission statement

NZNO is committed to the representation of members and the promotion of nursing and midwifery.

NZNO embraces Te Tiriti o Waitangi and works to improve the health status of all peoples of Aotearoa/ New Zealand through participation in health and social policy development.

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