

## New Zealand College of Critical Care Nurses Position Statement (2021) on The role of the New Zealand Critical Care Research Nurse Coordinator

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

### 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.

### Purpose

The aim of this position statement is to define the role of the critical care research nurse coordinator.

The Critical Care Research Nurse Coordinator is defined as: 'A critical care nurse who is employed to manage and conduct clinical trials and clinical research' (Bell, 2009).

The role of the critical care research nurse involves the management of clinical research trials within the ICU. This includes:

- pre-trial preparation such as trial design, appropriate trial selection, negotiation of contracts, ethics applications, liaison with other departments
- screening for and recruiting patients (often in collaboration with other ICU staff)
- enrolling patients (ascertaining the patient's wishes by discussion with their family and confirming that the study is in the patient's best interests; a medical decision)
- obtaining patient consent or assent when delegated by the Principal Investigator
- patient advocate: ensuring that patients have the opportunity to participate in research trials
- bridging gaps between research and bedside staff, patient and families/whanau
- ensuring that research is conducted safely
- ensure all trial-related activities are carried out including tests and drug protocol adherence
- patient follow up
- monitoring and reporting of protocol violations
- providing education, training and research dissemination
- upholding ethical and governance standards
- collaborating closely with the Principal Investigator
- fostering a research culture within the ICU

### Outcome

Good quality clinical research and clinical trials will be conducted within scientific, ethical and professional standards. The critical care research nurse ensures adherence to and knowledge of the International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) and the New Zealand Good Clinical Research Practice guidelines (GCRP).

## References and related documents

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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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