

Critical Care Nurses' Section

THE ROLE OF THE NEW ZEALAND CRITICAL CARE CLINICAL RESEARCH NURSE

I. BACKGROUND

Research is an integral part of critical care and nursing. Through research, clinical practice can be based on the best available evidence. There is a continuing need for best available evidence to advance and support contemporary practice. Nurses are responsible for initiating new approaches to practice, and through research, benefits are able to be evaluated with the potential to better patient outcomes.

II. PURPOSE

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

The Critical Care Clinical Research Nurse 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 clinical research nurse is defined as:

- The incorporation of study preparation, research conduct, clinical practise, education and management of high quality, relevant clinical research and clinical trials (Bell 2009).
- Managing clinical research trials by ensuring protocol adherence, working in conjunction with the principal investigator, providing education to trial participants, their significant others, whanau, and to critical care staff involved in clinical research, and by obtaining quality data.

III. 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).

IV. REFERENCES

Bell, J. (2009). Towards clarification of the role of research nurses in New Zealand: A literature review. *Nursing Praxis in New Zealand*, 25(1), p4-16.

International Conference of Harmonisation (ICH). Retrieved 2nd September 2009 from <http://www.ich.org/>.

New Zealand Good Clinical Practice guidelines (GCP). Retrieved 2nd September 2009 from <http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/riss/clinical.asp#New>.

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MISSION STATEMENT

NZNO is committed to the representation of members, 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.