

Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Dublin



Senior Dietitian Job Description & Person Specification

<u>Job Title / Grade:</u>	Senior Dietitian Cardio respiratory Specialties
<u>Contract type:</u>	Permanent Part Time (0.5WTE) H230084
<u>Department / Division:</u>	CLINICAL NUTRITION AND DIETETICS
<u>Directorate:</u>	HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PROFESSIONS
<u>Location:</u>	MATER MISERICORDIAE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
<u>Reporting Relationship:</u>	DIETITIAN MANAGER in Charge 3
<u>Responsible to:</u>	DIETITIAN MANAGER OR HIS / HER NOMINEE

Effective Date: July 2026
Review Date: July 2028

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Purpose:

The senior dietitian will work in the team of dietitians providing the clinical dietetics service to patients who have:

- respiratory disease, including primary pulmonary hypertension, COPD, lung fibrosis, lung infections and lung cancer.
- cardiac and thoracic surgery; including lung cancer surgery and heart lung transplant and post transplant CF service.
- cardiovascular disease, including stroke.

This team provides the clinical dietetic service to a range of wards and to patients attending national services at the Mater Hospital, pulmonary hypertension, congenital heart service, advanced heart failure, cardiothoracic surgery & heart and lung transplantation. Each dietitian within the team will have an area of specialisation. This post will be periodically rotational within the team to support CPD and skills development. The exact area of assignment will be agreed at job offer. A training plan to support integration into the cardiorespiratory dietitian team and the department practices will be developed for the senior dietitian.

The dietitian will provide an evidence based clinical nutrition service to patients.

The patient cohort includes those living with chronic disease, and the nutrition-linked comorbidities common to these conditions including: obesity, malnutrition, metabolic syndrome, dysglycaemia & diabetes, dyslipidaemia, fluid retention, and chronic kidney disease, which impact nutritional health and quality of life. This work includes nutrition support, chronic disease management and supporting patients who are often also linked with palliative care services.

The senior dietitian will be responsible for effective dietetic service delivery, people management and the management of operational standards within the assigned area. The post holder will work across a number of wards and may have a small OPD remit.. The post holder will provide service in accordance with Departments Vision, Mission and Values.

Our Department Vision, Mission and Values are

Vision: Leading the way in providing excellent nutrition care

Mission: To provide high quality, compassionate care to our patients to improve their lives by

- using evidence-based nutrition,
- embracing collaborative teamwork, and
- continuously progressing our dietetic skills

Values:

- Focused on the patient as a person
- Trustworthy experts in our field
- Kind, fair and adaptable
- Respectfully supporting each other, our patients and our colleagues

Working together to find practical solutions

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Managing the Service

- Deliver a high level and quality service to assigned patients, and area of clinical responsibility using evidence – based nutrition.
- Manage the assigned caseload effectively.
- To work with the clinical specialist, other senior dietitians and dietitians in the assigned team to develop nutritional care pathways that may require agreement, input and delivery by other stakeholders for implementation. This will include pathway changes due to Slainte Care healthcare re-organisation including the integrated care programmes for chronic disease, and initiatives on “self-care/ self-management” and structured education programmes for patients with chronic disease as well as HSE national clinical programmes, including the modernised pathway for CF and pulmonary rehab programmes.
- Demonstrate planning, prioritisation and provision of the dietetics service in the assigned area as part of the whole service delivery by the team.
- To work towards and deliver on the post related Key Performance Indicators.
- To communicate effectively with the wide Multi-Disciplinary Team, patients, family and carers.
- Build a strong working relationship with patients, team members and other stakeholders in order to provide the highest level of professional and quality service within the assigned resources and staffing.
- Contribute to quality improvements through an innovative approach, research evaluation, audit, project work, service development and evaluation of resources allocation.
- Follow and adhere to the professional CORU and hospital standards, policies and procedures.
- Work with dietitian colleagues to develop patient resources, clinical practice improvements and CPD opportunities.
- Represent the department as required by the Dietitian Manager.
- Participate in all clinical training as directed by the Dietitian Manager.
- Display self and service management skills.
- Provide cover to specific areas as allocated by the Dietitian Manager.

Work with people

- Communicate effectively within the dietetic team, consultants, MDT and other colleagues
- Work efficiently with the dietitian manager, clinical specialist and the assigned dietetics team.
- Provide supervision to dietitians
- Aim to build a relationship of trust and respect within the team.
- Assist others with queries and provide solutions to problems as required.
- Address any interpersonal disputes which may arise and report back on same
- Aim to resolve conflict should it arise. .
- Assist in the development of training plans, and deliver training to team members.
- Deliver clinical training for student dietitians in line with departmental practice.

Change Management

- Participate in any projects and change initiatives which may be introduced.
- Assist the clinical specialist in the team, and dietitian manager to develop the change agenda as required.
- Work with community dietetic colleagues to support patient care.
- Promote the change agenda amongst other team members.
- Assist in relaying the positive outcomes of change to other team members.

Maintaining Composure

- Present the post in the most professional manner.
- Represent Mater Misericordiae University Hospital in a professional manner.
- Display a high level of flexibility in relation to tasks and duties performed.
- Possess the ability to make difficult decisions.
- Be able to think logically.
- Make rational decisions that will support the team.
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills.
- Demonstrate good analytical skills.
- Be able to maintain composure during busy periods.

Supporting Personal and Professional Development

- Plan and progress personal and professional development of self and other team members with the Clinical Specialist Dietitian and the whole dietetic department
- Update medical and treatment knowledge in line with the hospital's respiratory service.
- Participate in training, clinical reflection and comply with professional registration CPD requirement.
- Participate in the departmental supervision and mentoring process.
- Access all developmental opportunities available to improve clinical knowledge, expertise and competencies.
- Keep abreast with any developments in nutrition research within the area.

Other Information Related to the Post:

- Follow and adhere to all risk related guidelines as stipulated by Risk Management.
- Ensure highest level of confidentiality pertaining to all stake holders. Comply with data protection policies.
- Adhere to and educate team members on all hospital policies and procedures.
- Display flexibility in conducting daily duties and tasks.
- Display effective time management.
- The roles/ responsibilities and competencies are not exhaustive and may be reviewed at any time as required by the dietitian manager.
- The dietitian manager has the right to request cover from the post holder in other areas within the Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics Department.
- The post holder contract includes 5/7 working.

General Responsibilities and Accountabilities

1. Confidentiality
You will be aware of the confidential nature of Hospital work and in particular, the right of patients to confidentiality.
2. Policies & Procedures
You are required to familiarise yourself with and adhere to all policy and procedural documents relevant to your position.
3. Hygiene Standards
The highest standard of hygiene must be maintained in the Hospital at all times and all staff members are responsible for ensuring compliance with the Hospitals

requirements and standards with regard to hygiene. It is the responsibility of all staff to have a fundamental understanding of their individual responsibility in maintaining departmental & site hygiene standards.

4. Health and Safety

Ensure that effective safety procedures are in place to comply not only with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 but also within the spirit of the Hospital's mission, vision and values, and they are known and followed by staff. You are required to familiarise yourself with the requirements of employees under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and to promote a work environment that is compliant with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005. Each staff member is individually responsible for ensuring that the Hospital remains a safe place to work.

5. Information Technology

Ensure the most effective and efficient use of developments in information technology for administrative support in a manner, which integrates well with systems throughout the organisation.

6. Business Continuity Management

Business Continuity Management (BCM) is a holistic management process that identifies potential impacts that threaten an organisation and provides a framework for building resilience and the capability for an effective response that safeguards the interests of its key stakeholders and reputation" (BS 25999) All Staff employed in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital are obliged to:

- make themselves familiar with the Organisational Business Continuity Plan
- attend BCM education sessions provided for them
- make themselves familiar with their individual roles as set out in their departmental business continuity plan if applicable and or the Organisational business continuity plan

Note:

These duties and responsibilities are reflection of the present service requirements and may be subject to review and amendment to meet the changing needs of the Hospital. The incumbent Senior Dietitian will be required to maintain, enhance and develop their professional knowledge, skills and aptitudes necessary to respond to a changing climate.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title/Grade	Senior Dietitian
Area of Specialism	Cardio Respiratory
Post	Permanent part time (0.5WTE)
Department	Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics
Location	Dept Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics
Date	July 2026

Candidates for application and appointment must be suitably qualified:

Be registered as a Dietitian by the Dietitians Registration Board at CORU, and
 Have 3 years full time (or equivalent) years post qualification dietetic experience including
 A minimum of 2 x 6 months experience in areas related to this post in the hospital setting -
 respiratory, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, CF, cardiology, cardiac & thoracic surgery,
 cancer and end of life care and/or transplantation.

Professional Development and Practice:

Candidates must demonstrate evidence of continuing professional development relevant to
 chronic disease dietetics and nutrition support.

Candidates must demonstrate evidence of training in the following:

- a) Dietary management of respiratory disease/ diabetes /chronic kidney disease/
transplantation/ heart failure and/or cardiovascular disease.
- b) Behavioural change training

And

Candidates must have the requisite knowledge and ability (including a high standard of
 suitability, management, leadership and professional ability) for the proper discharge of the
 duties of the office.

Professional Regulation:

Practitioners must maintain annual registration on Dietitians Register maintained by the
 Dietitians Registration Board at CORU.

And

Confirm annual registration with CORU to the HSE by way of the annual Patient Safety
 Assurance Certificate (PSAC)

Essential Skills:

Clinical expertise in nutrition in cardiac/respiratory disease in the hospital setting, or/and lung
 surgery or transplant care.

Strong nutrition support knowledge and skills including a proven track record of managing
 patients with nutritional comorbidities of chronic disease including diabetes and malnutrition.
 Experience in the delivery of patient care to those who require a therapeutic diet as part of
 their disease management.

Develop patient centred nutrition plans for those with chronic disease including nutrition
 comorbidities to maximise their nutritional status, throughout the patient journey.

Proficient in the use of NCP assessment and diagnosis.

Proficient in the use of IDDSI.

Proficiency in a range of computer packages and systems such as Microsoft Word, Excel,
 PowerPoint, EPR systems such as ICIP.

Core Competencies:

Team work

Project management and audit/evaluation skills

Strong time management and prioritisation skills

Signatures: Barbara Gillman, Dietitian Manager July 2026