

Rostering Best Practice

COVID-19 Surge Skills

After consultation across the disciplines of Nursing & Midwifery, Medical, Allied Health and Corporate Services, together with a Ministry of Health led working party (consisting of membership from LHD/SHN we have created a further two skills within HealthRoster. These two skills will assist with identification of staff who have been upskilled to assist in the event of a surge in demand for intensive care beds in response to COVID-19. Therefore, it is important that managers update HealthRoster and assign these skills to relevant staff by 31st July 2020.

SKILLS

In HealthRoster, roster managers should assign these two specific skills to the staff who are deemed competent in these skills. The two categories of skills identified for staff to assist with the COVID-19 ICU surge response are listed here:

- ICU Reserve
- ICU Support

Skill	Grade	Definition	Duration of skill application
ICU Reserve	Allied Health Pharmacists	Pharmacists with previous ICU experience who are: *Currently not deployed as ICU pharmacists, and *Deemed as competent in basic ICU pharmaceutical care by their facility	12 months
	Allied Health Physiotherapists	Staff who are determined as Critical Care Physiotherapy Capable, could be rostered to work within ICU in their facility during periods of high activity.	12 months
	Nursing & Midwifery	RNs working outside of ICU who have critical care experience and completed local ICU Upskilling Critical Care Face to Face and supernumerary days (as determined by LHD/SN)	12 months
ICU Support	Allied Health Pharmacists	Pharmacists (and pharmacy technicians) deemed as competent by their facility in skills which could be used to support the needs of ICU: Aseptic production,	12 months

Rostering Best Practice

COVID-19 Surge Skills

		Pharmaceutical procurement, medicines information, clinical trial management	
	Nursing & Midwifery	RN with high acuity care experience and transferable skills (Theatre nurse particularly, Recovery RN, ED, CCU/HDU) or RNs who have completed MEDCAST and/or ACCCN Critical Care course or similar (as determined by LHD/SN)	12 months

For skill definitions and instructions on how to assign a skill to a staff member please refer to the HealthRoster COVID Skills [Fact Sheet](#).

For further information please email the Rostering Best Practice Team:
MOH-Rostering@health.nsw.gov.au