This program is designed for scientists who wish to gain an appreciation of the nature of clinical practice and to observe the role of doctors and other professionals within the healthcare system.

The Scientists in the Clinic program is similar to an observership where individuals observe health professionals as they care for patients and families over a defined period in a healthcare facility. Individuals who function as observers in clinical areas may be present in clinical areas to observe the delivery of patient care. They may not provide clinical care and may not participate in or perform human subject research whilst participating in the program. (Health Education & Training Institute -HETI, 2014)

Potential activities involve:

* Outpatient Clinics
* Ward Rounds
* Surgery
* Clinical imaging and radiotherapy
* Chemotherapy
* Other provision of care in the hospital
* Clinical meetings
* Discussions with other members of the clinical team

# Scientist role

The scientists involved in the program will be considered as an observer in the medical context. Observation experiences in medical settings occur frequently. Outside observers have been defined elsewhere as follows:

*“Outside observers are individuals who are present during physician-patient encounters and are neither members of a health care team nor enrolled in an educational program for health professionals such as medical students.” (Geiderman, 2017)*

## Scientist responsibilities

* Participation in this program is for observation purposes only, scientists are not there to conduct or contribute to physical examinations, treatments or diagnoses of any patient.
* The observer role can be challenging, as it is a passive role, yet one where the individual must respond to the clinical and emotional circumstances of the environment. We ask that scientists follow the direction of clinical staff throughout the program.
* Notify program coordinator (insert coordinator name) and relevant clinician of any absences during the placement
* Behave in a professional manner during placement
* Adhere to insert organisation name workplace policies and requirements.
* Display insert organisation name ID badge that shows participant name and ‘Cancer Research’.

## To review

Insert any relevant document that should be reviewed here.

For example:

* Any local policies and procedures associated with the placement location
* Placement objectives of the ‘Scientists in the Clinic Program’.

# Clinician role

The clinician has an important role in this program; to act as a guide to the clinical environment, a collaborator to share ideas, and as a support throughout these experiences. In turn, the clinician will likely benefit through understanding clinical issues from a research perspective, a greater awareness of novel scientific advances, and the expertise and collaborative relationship with a skilled researcher in their field. Many clinicians at insert organisation name have academic foci, and we hope that through sharing expertise between researchers and clinicians may provide impetus for future research collaboration.

Clinicians may be experienced allied health, nursing and medical specialists.

## Clinician responsibilities

* Inform patients about the involvement of the scientist and gain consent prior to scientists entering a clinical consultation\*
* Provide a brief orientation for the scientist to the placement location
* Clearly convey any expectations and requirements of the scientist
* Participate in any pre-briefing and debriefing activities (when appropriate) (See *Page 7)*
* Organise other clinical staff who are able to act as a clinical supervisor if the clinician is unable to be present
* Ensure the scientist is present for observational purposes only; no formal evaluation of the scientist performance is required
* Expose the scientist to a variety of appropriate patient encounters and actively participate in dialogue that encourages discussion necessary to meet the learning objectives of the program

# \*Patient Consent:

*All patients with whom the medical observer is in contact must be informed about who they are and why they are present and that they will not be providing medical advice or treatment. The patient must provide informed consent prior to the presence of the medical observer and any supervised activities undertaken. (HETI, 2014)*

## To review

Insert any relevant document that should be reviewed here.

For example:

* + Placement objectives of the ‘Scientists in the Clinic Program’