CLINICAL SPECIALIST DIETITIAN (OBESITY MANAGEMENT)

1 X WTE ROLE

About Us

The National Institute for Prevention and Cardiovascular Health (NIPC) is an independent, not for profit organisation established in 2014. Its primary mission is to enhance the cardiovascular well-being of the Irish population through clinical innovation, research, education and knowledge translation. As part of its vision to trial and test innovative models of service delivery, NIPC is the Republic of Ireland clinical partner on a new and exciting cross border obesity project (within Donegal and Northern Ireland) known as "PEACETIME". This project is supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

PEACETIME aims to increase access to care for individuals living with the disease of obesity and related complications. Delivered within a research framework, the project will involve developing and implementing a community based, integrated, obesity programme. Leveraging digital technologies, the programme will include a range of personalised, evidence based, clinical pathways that are designed to align to the National Model of Care for the Management of Overweight and Obesity. These pathways will be delivered by an interdisciplinary team of nurses, dietitians, physiotherapists, health coaches and a psychologist, using a hybrid approach (in person and remote).

The Role

An exciting opportunity has arisen for a Clinical Specialist Dietitian in obesity with the primary focus of the role being to provide senior clinical leadership and in particular, direct the development and delivery of the dietetic and nutrition component of the PEACETIME intervention in accordance with standards of professional practice. The post holder will work as part of an interdisciplinary team of professionals to deliver holistic and patient-centred care to people living with obesity and its complications.

The successful applicant will be employed by the NIPC and will be based in Co. Donegal as part of a secondment arrangement with the HSE.

Reporting relationship

- The post holder's professional reporting relationship is to the HSE Dietitian Manager.
- Clinical governance for this position is through the NIPC Director of Clinical Innovation (Consultant Cardiologist) who provides clinical governance to the PEACETIME project.
- For operational and administrative matters, the postholder will report to the Operational Lead Integrated Care ICPCD (HSE) and the NIPC.

Principal Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide leadership on the development of PEACETIME (the dietetic component in particular but also the service as a whole) as an innovative service and deliver solutions to support implementation of the service within the target area.

- Alongside a small, dedicated PEACETIME dietetics team lead and deliver to a defined protocol, evidence-based, person-centred nutrition and dietetic assessments, interventions, and integrated care planning for complex patient cases.
- Lead on the delivery of evidence-based nutritional interventions aiming at health gains, weight loss and maintenance.
- Lead on the facilitation of health behaviour change utilising evidence-based techniques such as motivational interviewing, brief intervention and goal setting.
- Lead at clinical management meetings to ensure the delivery of a well-coordinated multidisciplinary service.
- Be responsible for the mentoring and supporting of PEACETIME dietitians as well as professional supervision of the senior dietitian.
- Actively participate in clinical audit and research ensuring efficient collection and management of participant and programme data.
- Ensure comprehensive protocols of standardised best practice in obesity care with associated documentation are in place, reflective of current guidelines.
- Be professionally accountable for all aspects of your own work, working to best practice guidelines and the PEACETIME clinical protocol.
- Engage in continuing professional development, keeping up to date with advances in obesity care.
- Identify and prioritise the requirements of the PEACETIME dietetic service within a constantly changing environment.
- Ensure professional standards are maintained in accordance with the requirements as set out by CORU https://coru.ie/files-recognition/standards-of-proficiency-for-dietitians.pdf
- Ensure a high standard of dietetic assessment and management and ensure that professional standards of practice are adhered to. Set and monitor performance standards.
- Keep abreast of research and practice developments in the specialist area of obesity management. Develop innovative models of dietetic care and service delivery.
- Develop, manage and evaluate the PEACETIME service provided in the designated specialist area.
- Undertake research and develop and maintain high standards of clinical practice within the designated specialist area.
- Provide expert opinion, advice and guidance to dietetic colleagues, medical team members and other health professionals.
- Undertake audit to establish PEACETIME service needs and monitor current service.
- Seek ways to benchmark and assure quality of the PEACETIME dietetic service.
- Be aware of national policy, guidelines and consultations and in conjunction with the Dietitian Manager and PEACETIME senior and staff dietitian, develop local policies and care pathways within the specialist area.
- Actively engage with relevant special interest groups and research-associated bodies, as appropriate.
- Serve on local or national committees to promote nutrition and dietetic practice.
- Ensure a non-judgemental, stigma free environment is provided so that the privacy and dignity of the PEACETIME service user is respected at all times.

Skills and Competencies

The successful applicant will be required to demonstrate:

- An advanced level of clinical knowledge, clinical reasoning skills and evidence-based practice in the delivery of dietetic services to individuals living with chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes or cardiovascular disease.

- An ability to apply specialist knowledge to best practice.
- Advanced knowledge and skill in assessment and treatment approaches for the effective management of obesity.
- Evidence of having applied / used appropriate assessments and treatments and a knowledge of the implications of outcomes for service users, particularly those with complex obesity management needs.
- Senior clinical leadership to drive optimal team performance
- Participation in research and the generation of new knowledge and skills.
- Depth and breadth of experience in behaviour change techniques for obesity management.
- Experience in public speaking and leadership in group facilitation of patient education sessions.
- The ability to work autonomously and to adopt a collaborative approach to patient care through interprofessional team working.
- Initiative, motivation and an innovative approach to job and service development.
- Flexibility and adaptability in approach to work, ensuring efficient case load management.
- Excellent IT skills to include use of email, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and database management.
- A commitment to the delivery of quality service, measurable through audit and/or research.
- The ability to plan and manage the delivery of an optimum service in an effective and resourceful manner, within a model of person-centred care.
- A high level of initiative, flexibility and adaptability in response to workforce demands.
- The ability to promote the delivery of a holistic, user-focused approach, which encompasses a multi-professional and inter-professional perspective.
- An ability to balance clinical work with other research and educational responsibilities.
- A commitment to managing and developing self and others in a busy working environment.
- Ability to deal positively and constructively with obstacles and conflict within teams.
- An ability to promote collaborative working relationships as well as having the ability to work independently and exercise a high degree of professional autonomy.
- A high degree of professional autonomy in the analysis of highly complex facts or situations that contribute to the implementation of a treatment or management strategy for the service user.
- An ability to critically evaluate and draw sound conclusions from evidence available pertaining to clients and the potential impact of new or altered therapies.
- Effective communication skills (written & verbal) e.g. presents written information in a clear, concise and well-structured manner / communicates complex information by tailoring the communication method and the message to match the needs of the audience.
- Sound interpersonal skills including the ability to collaborate effectively with a wide range of people, colleagues, families, carers etc.

Requirements

The post holder must be suitably qualified as follows:

- Be registered, or be eligible for registration, as a Dietitian by the Dietitians Registration Board at CORU.
- Have at least 5 years full-time (or an aggregate of 5 years full time) post qualification dietetic experience, of which 4 years full time (or an aggregate of 4 years) post registration qualification clinical experience must be in the required area of obesity management.
- Have a proven record of clinical excellence in obesity management.
- Have at least 1 year experience of delivering dietetic services to chronic disease populations including those living with obesity, diabetes or cardiovascular disease.

- Demonstrate evidence of continuing professional development relevant to the required area of specialism, in the form of postgraduate qualifications or relevant courses.
- Candidates must demonstrate achievement in the areas of clinical audit, quality improvement initiatives, practice development, teaching and research

Desirable:

- Experience in delivering dietetic services using digital health technologies
- A postgraduate qualification (level 9) in any of the following:
  - Obesity
  - Diabetes
  - Preventive Cardiology

Remuneration

Salary scale for this post ranges from €72,000 to €78,000, subject to continued funding under PEACETIME.

This role is being offered as a fixed term contract until December 2028 (with possibility of extension). It is offered as 1 WTE, ending when the project finishes. You will be subject to a 6-month probationary period. At the end of this period, subject to satisfactory performance, you will be confirmed in post.

Application deadline: **12.00 midday on 7 December 2026.**

The working week is 37.5 hours

A desktop shortlisting process may be carried out prior to interview stage. Attendance at interview will be at the candidate's own expense.

Interviews are scheduled to take place between 11 and 22 January 2027 and will be in person, with the option of remote if required.

This job profile will be subject to review in accordance with service developments and is neither restrictive nor definitive, but rather a guide to the general range of duties required.

Apply Now

Terms and Conditions

Contract Type

This is a fixed-term post linked to the PEACETIME project and will run until December 2028 (with possibility of extension). This post includes a **6-month probation period**, during which performance and suitability for the role will be reviewed. The post will automatically end when the project concludes.

Reporting

Successful candidates will report to NIPC for all employment matters and will also have an operational reporting line to the designated HSE clinical lead for day-to-day service delivery. NIPC retains full responsibility for the duration of employment, including HR processes, contract management, performance management and compliance with NIPC policies.

Working Hours

The normal working week is **37.5 hours**, Monday to Friday. Working hours, rest breaks and maximum working limits will follow the Organisation of Working Time Act 1997.

Location

The role will be based in **County Donegal**, with travel across sites as required. Some limited hybrid working may be possible depending on service needs. As this role involves some work on **HSE sites**, you will be required to follow local site protocols and procedures, including health and safety and patient-related processes.

Salary

The salary for the role is set out above. Salary is paid by bank transfer on the **21st of each month**.

Annual Leave

Annual leave entitlement is **21 days per year**, plus public holidays, in line with the Organisation of Working Time Act 1997. Annual leave must be approved in advance and taken at times that meet service needs.

Overtime and TOIL

NIPC does not pay overtime. Where additional hours are required and approved in advance, staff may take equivalent Time Off in Lieu (TOIL).

Sick Leave

Paid sick leave may be available under the NIPC sick pay scheme after 3 months of service. Medical certification is required for absences of three days or more, with weekly certification thereafter.

Pension

From 2026, all staff will be automatically enrolled into the national Auto-Enrolment Retirement Savings Scheme. Further details will be provided at the start of employment.

Travel and Expenses

Some travel may be required as part of this role. Approved mileage and other expenses may be claimed in line with NIPC policy. Use of a personal vehicle for work requires appropriate roadworthiness and insurance.

Notice Period

Once probation is completed, the notice period for both employer and employee is **one month**. During probation, one week's notice applies.

Policies and Compliance Requirements

All employees must comply with NIPC policies and procedures, including:

- Confidentiality and data protection (GDPR)
- Dignity and respect at work
- Health and safety
- Code of conduct
- Grievance and disciplinary procedures
- Attendance and absence reporting
- IT, digital security and professional behaviour standards

Full policy details will be provided in the employee handbook at commencement of employment.

Right to Work

Appointment is subject to confirmation of eligibility to work in the Republic of Ireland. Successful candidates will be required to provide valid photo identification and proof of address as part of the right-to-work and pre-employment checks.

Vetting and Checks

Where required, Garda vetting, reference checks, qualification verification or professional registration checks may apply depending on the role.

Data Protection

Personal data provided during the recruitment process will be processed in line with GDPR and NIPC's Data Protection Policy.