

PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICES - AFTER HOURS - CHW

POLICY®

DOCUMENT SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- The after-hours Respiratory Physiotherapy Service is:
 - Provided for Acute Respiratory care only.
 - This service is provided:
 - **Weekdays:** 5pm – 11pm
 - **Weekends and Public Holidays:** 8am – 11pm
 - Outside of these hours an on-call service for an acutely ill child will only be provided following a doctor's assessment and approval by a Consultant Medical Officer or the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) Fellow. Refer to [Appendix 1](#).
- **Orthopaedic Weekend Physiotherapy Service** is provided for 4 hours on a Saturday and Sunday morning to facilitate timely discharge of orthopaedic patients.

CHANGE SUMMARY

- Due for mandatory review - minor change in hours of service.

READ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- CHW Physiotherapy Staff and CHW Medical and nursing staff working outside of normal business hours should be aware of this document.

Approved by:	SCHN Policy, Procedure and Guideline Committee	
Date Effective:	1 st July 2018	Review Period: 3 years
Team Leader:	Department Head	Area/Dept: CHW Physiotherapy

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
1 Respiratory Physiotherapy Service	3
1.1 Respiratory Physiotherapy After Hours Service	3
<i>Indications for After-Hours Respiratory Physiotherapy.....</i>	3
<i>New Referrals to the After-Hours Respiratory Physiotherapist.....</i>	3
1.2 Respiratory Physiotherapy On-Call Services	4
<i>Hours of service.....</i>	4
<i>Indications for a Respiratory Physiotherapy Call-Back.....</i>	4
2 Orthopaedic Physiotherapy Services	5
2.1 Weekend Hours of service	5
<i>Indications for Weekend Orthopaedic Physiotherapy Services</i>	5
<i>Referrals to the Weekend Orthopaedic Physiotherapist.....</i>	5
Appendix 1: Flow Chart to Request On-Call Physiotherapy	6

Introduction

The Physiotherapy Department provides an after-hours Respiratory Physiotherapy Service for acute respiratory care only and Orthopaedic weekend Physiotherapy Service to facilitate timely discharge of orthopaedic patients.

1 Respiratory Physiotherapy Service

1.1 Respiratory Physiotherapy After Hours Service

A Respiratory Physiotherapy after-hours service operates on evenings, weekends and public holidays over the following hours:

- **Weekday Evenings:** 5.00 pm – 11.00 pm Page 6189
- **Weekends and Public Holidays:** 8.00 am – 11.00 pm Page 6189
Page 6222 (8-4pm only)

Note: All new referrals need to be made through page 6189.

Indications for After-Hours Respiratory Physiotherapy

Inclusion of patients on the after-hours respiratory physiotherapy list is at the discretion of the treating day time physiotherapist based on the following criteria.

The criteria for inclusion on the after-hours treatment list must include one or more of the following:

- Respiratory / ventilatory support for example oxygen supplementation
- Chest X-ray changes
- Respiratory distress
- Evidence of difficulty clearing retained pulmonary secretions

Plus one or more of the following:

- At risk of deterioration in respiratory status if not seen
- Risk factors eg, impaired/ineffective cough, immobile
- Post-operative surgery
- Pre-operative chest infection
- Acute symptoms on chronic lung disease

New Referrals to the After-Hours Respiratory Physiotherapist

The after-hours Respiratory Physiotherapist must be contacted on page 6189 to activate new referrals.

All referrals to Physiotherapy require a Powerchart referral and documentation in the inpatient medical record.

1.2 Respiratory Physiotherapy On-Call Services

Hours of service

A respiratory physiotherapy on-call service is provided as follows:

- **7 days per week:** 11.00 pm to 8.00 am Contact via switch

A **Consultant Medical Officer or the PICU Fellow** may authorise a respiratory physiotherapy treatment for an acutely ill child during these hours, by calling the on-call physiotherapist.

(Refer to [Appendix 1](#))

The on-call physiotherapist is **not located on-site** and will therefore need to be called back to the hospital.

Indications for a Respiratory Physiotherapy Call-Back

The criteria for call back are:

- An acute and significant deterioration in respiratory condition despite medical and nursing management such as positioning, suctioning, medication, increase in oxygen requirements and/or increasing ventilatory support.
- Patient at risk of intubation without physiotherapy treatment.

Note:

- **Physiotherapy call-backs are not routine treatments.**
- A doctor's **assessment** of the acutely ill child with deteriorating respiratory status should occur **immediately prior** to any request for a physiotherapy call back.
- The request must then also be authorised by the **Consultant Medical Officer or PICU Fellow** and documented in the inpatient medical record before the on-call respiratory physiotherapist is contacted. See [Flow Chart Appendix 1](#).
- The on-call respiratory physiotherapist must ensure that the Consultant Medical Officer or PICU Fellow has approved the request. **The physiotherapist cannot respond to a call-back request from a nurse or resident/registrar.**
- It may take the physiotherapist **up to an hour** to reach the hospital after being notified of the call back request.

2 Orthopaedic Physiotherapy Services

2.1 Weekend Hours of service

The orthopaedic weekend physiotherapy service operates over the following hours:

- **Saturday:** 8.30 am – 12.30 pm page 6385
- **Sunday:** 8.30 am – 12.30 pm page 6385

Note: All new referrals need to be made through page 6385.

If the weekend Orthopaedic Physiotherapist does not answer, please contact the *weekend* Respiratory Physiotherapist on page 6189.

If treatment that will *facilitate immediate patient discharge* is required outside of the above times (and can only be provided by a physiotherapist), the weekend respiratory physiotherapist can be contacted and may be available to provide the treatment. This will depend on the respiratory physiotherapist's competency, clinical caseload and availability.

Indications for Weekend Orthopaedic Physiotherapy Services

Orthopaedic physiotherapy is provided to **facilitate timely discharge**, for example completion of plasters, crutch walking and general mobilisation.

Referrals to the Weekend Orthopaedic Physiotherapist

The weekend Orthopaedic Physiotherapist **must** be contacted on page 6385 to activate the referral. All referrals to Physiotherapy must be documented in the inpatient medical record.

Note: There is no orthopaedic physiotherapy service available on public holidays.

Copyright notice and disclaimer:

The use of this document outside Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (SCHN), or its reproduction in whole or in part, is subject to acknowledgement that it is the property of SCHN. SCHN has done everything practicable to make this document accurate, up-to-date and in accordance with accepted legislation and standards at the date of publication. SCHN is not responsible for consequences arising from the use of this document outside SCHN. A current version of this document is only available electronically from the Hospitals. If this document is printed, it is only valid to the date of printing.

Appendix 1: Flow Chart to Request On-Call Physiotherapy

