

AGE FOR ADMISSION / TREATMENT: PRINCIPLES REGARDING INPATIENT, OUTPATIENT, OUTREACH CLINIC CARE AND CLINICAL RESEARCH

POLICY®

DOCUMENT SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- For **patients who have reached their 16th birthday**: Existing patients (chronic conditions) may attend up to their 18th birthday for the same or related condition. New patients - approval is required.
- For **patients who have reached their 18th birthday**: Approval is required. Some exemptions apply.
- For **patients who have reached their 19th birthday**: Approval is required.
- SCHN strongly supports patients being well prepared for transitioning. Poorly managed transitioning is not justification for re-admission or ongoing care in outpatients.

CHANGE SUMMARY

- This document replaces SCH and CHW age of admission/treatment policy.
- No major changes from the site specific policies.

READ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- All clinical staff must read this policy.

Approved by:	SCHN Policy, Procedure and Guideline Committee	
Date Effective:	30 th June 2016	Review Period: 3 years
Team Leader:	Nurse Managers	Area/Dept: Patient Flow Unit, SCH & CHW

Inpatient, Outpatient and Outreach Clinic Care

For patients who have reached their 16th Birthday

Existing patients with chronic conditions

- May attend up to their 18th birthday for the *same* or *related* condition.

New patients*

- Approval is required from the Nurse or Medical Manager, Patient Flow Team (for inpatients) or the relevant Clinical Program Director (for outpatients): this includes existing chronic patients with a *new* unrelated condition.

For patients who have reached their 18th Birthday

- Existing patients with chronic conditions must have received prospective approval** at least 4 months prior to their 18th birthday.
- Approval is required from the Nurse or Medical Manager, Patient Flow (for inpatients) or the relevant Clinical Program Director (for outpatients) and transition is arranged and transition planning is completed.
- Exemptions may be considered if:
 - Patient is attending Year 12 in the calendar year in which they turn 18***; or
 - Patient has a minor procedure to complete a package of care. For example, removal of a splint or removal of a central venous catheter etc; or
 - Patient is terminally ill and expected to die within months.
- New patients are not accepted unless approved by the Director of Clinical Operations (DCO) via a Clinical Program Director: this includes existing patients with a new condition.

Note: SCHN strongly supports patients being well prepared for transitioning. Poorly managed transitioning is not justification for re-admission or ongoing care in outpatients.

For patients who have reached their 19th Birthday

- All patients are to be referred to the DCO for consideration via the Patient Flow Manager unless in one of the exempt outpatient category of:
 - Perinatal advice
 - Genetic consultation around SCHN existing patient
 - Late effects follow-up clinic in Oncology.

Notes:

* Appointment must be available to be seen/admitted before their 16th birthday. Any new patient to be admitted beyond the 17th birthday may need to accept limitations and conditions on what is being offered at SCHN.

For example, the proposed longer term adult team and the family/patient must agree to the limits of an interim process (e.g. induction treatment commencing at SCHN but the adult team will then take over maintenance care).

** A list of these approvals is to be maintained by the Patient Flow Team at each site that is electronically available at all hours to the Admissions Officer, Outpatients staff, Emergency Departments and After Hours Nurse Managers and be specific as to inpatient or outpatient extension.

*** A "Pathways" (extending the HSC course) do not extend the outpatient or inpatient approval beyond the year of their 18th birthday.

Participants in Clinical Research

Research participants may be patients of SCHN or members of the community taking part in research studies and clinical trials that are sponsored by SCHN or for which SCHN is acting as a study site.

Study interventions and study visits are approved by registered ethics committees and conducted in accordance with SCHN research governance authorisation.

The age-related requirements listed below apply to existing and new research studies in the event that research participants are required to access SCHN premises (including, but not limited to, the clinical trial rooms, outpatients department, wards) for research purposes, including screening assessments and/or the conduct of study visits for treatment and/or follow-up under a research protocol.

Participants who reach their 16th birthday while on study

- May access the SCHN premises for research purposes up to their 18th birthday;
- In the event that admission is required for research purposes (e.g. via inpatient facilities), prior approval will be required from the Nurse or Medical Manager, Patient Flow, and communicated to the appropriate Nurse Unit Manager or equivalent for the facility.
- Patients who are not current patients of SCHN will not be admitted or continue to receive non-clinical trial related treatments at SCHN.

Participants who reach their 18th birthday while on study

- Study sponsors must arrange for research participants to be transferred to an age-appropriate site a minimum of 6 months prior to their 18th birthday

- Exemptions to the requirement for transfer may be considered if:
 - The research participant is due to have completed all required visits within 3 months
 - It is not practical to transfer the research participant due to the study not being open or able to be opened at age-appropriate site(s)
- Exemptions will require approval of the Director of Research and the Nurse of Medical Manager, Patient Flow in the event that admission is required for research purposes
- Studies that require the recruitment of both adults and children must take a dual-site approach.
- Adult research participants may not be recruited or undergo interventions within an SCHN site.

Adult participants who have been diagnosed with a disease of childhood for which a trial is open at SCHN

- Individuals aged over 18 years who have been diagnosed with a disease of childhood may enter a research study via SCHN, including accessing the SCHN premises for research purposes, if:
 - The research study is not open or able to be opened at age-appropriate site(s) accessible to the individual/participant
 - The individual is receiving routine clinical care at an age-appropriate facility
 - An agreement is entered into with the adult site describing how clinical care will continue whilst the participant is on the study.
 - The study is not available at an adult site
- Prior approval is required from the Director of Research and the Chief Executive.
- Adult research participants in this category will not be accepted at SCHN for inpatient studies or for interventions.

Adult Participants of research studies relating to SCHN exempt outpatient categories:

- Adult participants may be enrolled in studies conducted by SCHN if the study is related to the following exempt outpatient categories:
 - Perinatal advice
 - Genetic consultation around an existing SCHN patient
 - Late effects of disorders of childhood (e.g. oncology)
- Adult research participants in this category will not be accepted at SCHN for inpatient studies or for interventions.

Definitions	
Research Participant	An individual who participates in a clinical trial, either as a recipient of investigational intervention(s) or as a control.
Site	Site is a facility, location or service where the research is being conducted.
Sponsor	Sponsor of a clinical trial is the company, institution or organisation, body or individual that takes overall responsibility for the conduct of the trial and usually initiates, organises and supports the clinical trial.
On Study	Receiving treatment or in follow-up as per Protocol.
Interventions	May include, but are not limited to, blood draws, imaging or other clinical examination.

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