

Position Description

Position title	Senior Orthopaedic Physiotherapist
Department / Division	Orthopaedics
Classification	Physiotherapist - GR3 YR4 (VC1)
Position reports to	Director of Orthopaedics
No. of direct & indirect reports	n/a
Location	The Royal Children's Hospital, Flemington Road, Parkville
Risk category	Category B - works in a patient facing setting but rarely or unlikely to have contact with blood or body fluids (or aerosols without PPE)

The Royal Children's Hospital
<p>The Royal Children's Hospital's (RCH) vision is <i>a world where all kids thrive</i>.</p> <p>RCH is located within the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct, with more than 45 world-class biomedical organisations and more than 50,000 of the brightest minds working together to make the Precinct number one in the Asia Pacific region for health, education, research, and training. Within this, RCH is also a cornerstone member of the Melbourne Children's Campus, partnering with Murdoch Children's Research Institute, The University of Melbourne Department of Paediatrics and The Royal Children's Hospital Foundation. Each organisation contributes to a paediatric academic health centre which is greater than the sum of its parts.</p> <p>RCH has cared for the children and young people of Victoria for more than 150 years since it was founded in 1870. A full range of paediatric and adolescent health services are provided plus tertiary and quaternary care for the most critically ill and medically complex patients in Victoria, Tasmania, southern NSW and other states around Australia and overseas. The RCH is the only provider of heart transplant services and CAR T-cell therapy for paediatrics in Australia. RCH is an effective advocate for patients and their families with a particular focus on vulnerable children and increasingly, mental health in young people. The hospital also supports many health promotion and prevention programs. The Hospital has more than 6,000 staff, a budget of \$850M, 12 wards and 350 beds. Annually, the RCH has 300,000+ Specialist Clinic appointments, 90,000+ Emergency Department presentations and 20,000 elective surgeries.</p> <p>We work collaboratively with hospitals to deliver the right care, in the right place, at the right time. The RCH is committed to the Child Safe Standards https://www.rch.org.au/quality/child-safety/.</p> <p>RCH enjoys high employee engagement and is committed to staff safety and a positive culture through enactment of our Compact.</p> <p>Further information on RCH is available at www.rch.org.au</p>

ROLE CONTEXT
This role sits within the Department of Orthopaedics as a key role in the direct clinical management of patients with paediatric orthopaedic needs.

ROLE PURPOSE

The Senior Orthopaedic Physiotherapist provides direct patient and family care in the setting of Specialist Clinics- Orthopaedics. The physiotherapist provides assessment and management of common musculoskeletal problems, both surgical and non-surgical. These include knee injuries, scoliosis, gait and posture complaints, hip dysplasia, clubfoot (Ponseti technique). The physiotherapist in the Orthopaedic Assessment Clinic (OAC) provides a screening role to facilitate the delivery of timely and high-quality orthopaedic care for children. The OAC clinics generally run concurrently with the orthopaedic consultant clinics, with consultants providing support as needed for the physiotherapists when managing children with more complex problems.

Purpose

- To be responsible for delivery of an effective and efficient physiotherapist led paediatric orthopaedic outpatient service.
- To work autonomously and/or in a team as a senior orthopaedic consultant physiotherapist, using advanced assessment, diagnostic skills and investigations to manage babies, children and adolescents referred to the orthopaedic department.
- To contribute to the audit and clinical research activities of the department

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

Clinical

- To be professionally responsible for all aspects of the senior orthopaedic consultant physiotherapist work, including the management of patients on the caseload.
- To carry out specialised paediatric orthopaedic assessments as a practitioner, including those with complex presentations and to use clinical reasoning skills, knowledge of evidence-based practice and advanced orthopaedic expertise to determine appropriate care plans utilising specialist treatment skills and options.
- To act as a first point of contact for designated patients referred for an orthopaedic opinion, thus reducing waiting times for orthopaedic appointments
- To manage and prioritise own clinical caseload, ensuring that an efficient and effective physiotherapy orthopaedic service is provided
- Participation in spine assessment, knee injury assessment, clubfoot casting and hip dysplasia clinics

Other responsibilities

- To be professionally accountable and responsible for own work; to maintain a high standard of clinical care for patients in accordance with recognised standards, guidelines or best practice.
- To be aware of and work in accordance with Hospital policies and procedures, including Occupational Health and Safety, Equal Employment Opportunity, Confidentiality, Consumer and Community Participation.
- To be respectful of the needs of patients, visitors and other staff and maintain a professional approach to all interactions.
- To comply with the physiotherapy codes of professional conduct at all times.

Duties (operational roles)

- To manage the daily running of the OAC service, dealing with clinical and non-clinical operational issues.
- To coordinate and prioritise the urgency of referral to other specialists and communicate effectively within the Orthopaedic Department.
- To be responsible for the assessment and management of a wide range of paediatric orthopaedic conditions seen in the OAC, in co-ordination with other physiotherapists in team and Orthopaedic Consultants as required.
- To interpret and analyse clinical findings and investigations to formulate accurate diagnoses and prognoses and develop appropriate treatment plans for individual patients.

- To recommend the evidence based/best practice intervention for patients presenting to the OAC. This may include liaising with or referral to orthopaedics consultants & other specialists, referral to allied health professionals, specialist investigations, or the decision that no further treatment is required.
- To effectively communicate and liaise with the referring medical practitioners.
- To provide written reports of clinical findings/opinion to medical colleagues
- To assist in maintenance of established registries, audit and clinical research activities of the Department.

Key Performance Indicators

- Satisfactory completion of tasks as outlined in Responsibilities, above.
- Maintain high level of communication with Deputy Director and Director of Orthopaedics.
- Maintain a professional service-oriented approach.
- Ensure all written and verbal communication to and from the OAC is managed professionally, efficiently, courteously and confidentially.
- Work effectively as a team member of the orthopaedic department.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Essential

- Bachelor of Physiotherapy (or equivalent) with a minimum of 5 years clinical experience with specific interest in paediatric orthopaedic care preferred
- Professional registration with AHPRA
- An advanced level of clinical expertise and theoretical knowledge in the assessment and management of patients for required caseload

Desirable

- Membership of Australian Physiotherapy Association and special interest group/s
- Post graduate qualification relating to paediatric physiotherapy or other relevant post graduate qualification
- Completion of Specialist Certificate in Paediatric Orthopaedic Physiotherapy

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

- Excellent interpersonal skills and professional demeanour.
- Exceptional organisational, prioritising and time management skills.
- Ability to work in a busy environment with multiple demands on attention.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Awareness of boundaries of own advanced scope of practice and to effectively always manage associated clinical risk.
- Ability to work autonomously and as a member of a team.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Employees are required to undertake a National Criminal Record Check and a Working with Children Check prior to commencing employment
- Employees are required to maintain a valid Working with Children Check throughout their employment
- A current, full driver's licence for the State of Victoria which is appropriate for the type of vehicle being driven, and comply with any restrictions on their licence (e.g. wearing glasses) while undertaking hospital duties (If applicable)

- Employees are required to maintain compliance with RCHs "Staff Immunisation - Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Diseases" procedure.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

All employees are required to adhere to the Royal Children's Hospital Values:

- Curious - We are creative, playful and collaborative
- Courageous - We pursue our goals with determination, ambition and confidence
- Inclusive - We embrace diversity, communicate well, build connections and celebrate our successes together
- Kind - We are generous, warm and understanding

RCH COMPACT

All new and existing employees commit to the RCH Compact to contribute to a strong and respectful culture.

- We do better work caring for children and families when we also care for each other
- I bring a positive attitude to work – I share, I laugh, I enjoy other's company
- I take responsibility for my behaviour and its impact on others
- I am curious and seek out ways to constantly learn and improve
- I celebrate the good stuff, the small stuff, the big stuff – it all matters
- I speak up when things aren't right
- I value the many different roles it takes to deliver great patient care
- I actively listen because I want to understand others and make better decisions
- I am inclusive and value diversity
- When it comes to teamwork, I don't hold back – I'm all in

QUALITY, SAFETY AND IMPROVEMENT

RCH employees have a responsibility and accountability to contribute to the organisation's commitment to Quality, Safety and Improvement by:

- Acting in accordance and complying with all relevant Safety and Quality policies and procedures
- Identifying risks, reporting and being actively involved in risk mitigation strategies
- Participating in and actively contributing to quality improvement programs
- Complying with the requirements of the National Safety & Quality Health Service Standards
- Complying with all relevant clinical and/or competency standards
- Complying with the principles of Patient and Family Centred Care that relate to this position

The RCH is committed to a diverse and inclusive workforce. We encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, all members of the LGBTQI community and people with disability.

Position description last updated

July 2025