

Position Description

Position title	Physiotherapist (Orthopaedics)
Department / Division	Physiotherapy Department / Ambulatory Services
Classification	Grade 2 Year 1 – Grade 2 Year 4 (VB1 – VB4)
Position reports to	Manager of Physiotherapy
No. of direct & indirect reports	N/A
Location	The Royal Children's Hospital, Flemington Road, Parkville
Risk category	Category A - works in a direct patient contact role and has or potential to have exposure to blood or body fluids.

The Royal Children's Hospital
The Royal Children's Hospital's (RCH) vision is <i>a world where all kids thrive</i>. 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. 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. 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/. RCH enjoys high employee engagement and is committed to staff safety and a positive culture through enactment of our Compact. Further information on RCH is available at www.rch.org.au

ROLE CONTEXT
The Physiotherapy Department operates within the Directorate of Allied Health and is comprised of Physiotherapists and Allied Health Assistants, providing tertiary level care to inpatients and outpatients, with over 2,000 direct patient encounters monthly. Our mission is to optimise children's health and function in partnership with families, and provide evidence-informed physiotherapy care at the right time and in the right place.

The Physiotherapy Department provides a clinical service seven days/week, including daytime and evening shifts. Grade 2 Physiotherapists are rostered across all hours and days of the Physiotherapy Department service.

ROLE PURPOSE

The Grade 2 Physiotherapist will provide physiotherapy services to children and adolescents as part of a multidisciplinary team at RCH. By working in close collaboration with medical, nursing and allied health staff they will ensure that services provided to children at RCH are innovative, evidence-informed and provided in a child and family centred context. Through providing excellent clinical care and working to share knowledge and expertise, the Grade 2 Physiotherapist contributes to the organisational goals of being a leading paediatric academic hospital and supporting an integrated paediatric service system.

This role works within the Physiotherapy Department orthopaedic stream. Areas of practice within this stream include but are not limited to: orthopaedic and musculoskeletal conditions, limb deficiency and reconstruction, spinal surgery, orthopaedic cerebral palsy surgery, post-operative care, burns, plastics, haematology, rheumatology, and lymphoedema. Services are provided across both land-based and aquatic environments.

Service delivery within other Physiotherapy streams may be required to meet workforce demands as directed by the manager.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

Provision of Care

- Integrate information from multiple sources to develop and deliver a comprehensive and holistic treatment plan.
- Deliver excellent clinical assessment, treatment, advice and education in line with clinical guidelines and evidence relevant to the patient's condition and clinical needs.
- Maintain clinical documentation, records and data as per discipline specific guidelines and RCH procedures.
- Actively contribute to continuous improvement.
- Support Grade 1 and 2 staff in their patient management and clinical reasoning with complex patients.
- Ensure timely provision of discipline services through appropriate prioritisation of own caseload, that of junior staff as well as patient needs.
- Develop and update treatment protocols for areas of own clinical practice.

Lifelong Learning

- Participate in professional development activities to ensure that best clinical practice is maintained.
- Identify personal and professional development needs, and plan and implement strategies for achieving them.
- Support others to review, reflect on and evaluate their own practice.
- Provide effective supervision to junior and less experienced staff.

Collaborative Practice

- Provide child centred, family focused care through partnership with parents/families.
- Work in collaboration with multidisciplinary teams in pursuit of team goals.
- Actively participate as part of a team to ensure ongoing excellence in service delivery and contribute to continuous improvement.
- Work in a flexible manner and participate in other duties as allocated, consistent with skill level to ensure adequate cover and clinical care, equitable workload distribution and equity of access across the whole Physiotherapy Department service.

Communication

- Display well-developed verbal communication and interpersonal skills and attention to detail with the ability to interact with a variety of stakeholders.
- Communicate effectively with patients and families to ensure their understanding and that their needs and views are included in plans and actions.
- Take collective ownership of problems.
- Consider different points of view and compromise, where necessary and appropriate, to reach consensus.

Continuous Improvement

- Actively contribute, as an individual and as a member of a team, to the continuous improvement of health care quality and patient safety.
- Act to reduce error and sources of risk in own practice.
- Escalate risks appropriately within the healthcare team.
- Achieve and maintain competency in relevant skills in line with departmental requirements relevant to the role.

Supervision, Leadership and People Management

- Participate in clinical supervision in accordance with local procedures and the RCH Allied Health Clinical Supervision Guideline, which are based on the DHHS Allied Health Clinical Supervision Framework.
- Provide clinical supervision to Grade 1 Physiotherapists and students.

Organisation and Planning

- Demonstrate well-developed organisation and planning skills.

Research

- Find, critically review evaluate and interpret literature and apply to current role and/or service.
- Support the research agenda of the team, work unit and/or department.
- Share evidence with colleagues within own team and wider service, through forums such as special interest groups, journal clubs, department in-services, and interprofessional education sessions.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Essential:

- A Physiotherapy degree qualification from an accredited course/university.
- Registration to practice as a Physiotherapist with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)
- Satisfy the Physiotherapy Board of Australia Continuing Professional Development and Recency of Practice Guidelines.
- Uphold the Physiotherapy Board of Australia Code of Conduct.

Desirable:

- Demonstrated experience working in an acute tertiary hospital environment.
- Demonstrated experience working in an acute paediatric setting.
- Demonstrated experience in the supervision and training of undergraduate students.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

- Excellent professional, interpersonal and self-reflection skills to enable effective work with people of different personalities and backgrounds.
- The ability to motivate children of different ages and abilities, and to advocate for patients and their families.
- Communication, supervision and education skills of a level suitable for supervision of students, junior Physiotherapists and Allied Health Assistants.

- Demonstrated ability to work in an acute care timeframe, manage competing demands and to appropriately prioritise and manage a caseload.
- Demonstrated ability to function independently and collaboratively, with experience working in multidisciplinary teams with multiple stakeholders.
- Sound problem solving and conflict resolution skills and the ability to apply these in practice.
- Demonstrated commitment to ongoing education and skill development.
- Demonstrated skills and experience in areas of physiotherapy practice relevant to the clinical stream.
- Excellent computer literacy skills.

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 LGBTIQI community and people with disability.

Position description last updated

August 2025