

PHYSIOTHERAPY – EMERGENCY AND URGENT OUT OF HOURS CONSULTATION

This LOP is developed to guide clinical practice at the Royal Hospital for Women. Individual patient circumstances may mean that practice diverges from this LOP.

1. AIM

- Woman requiring urgent treatment is seen by the on call physiotherapist

2. PATIENT

- Woman requiring urgent physiotherapy consultation

3. STAFF

- Physiotherapist on call

4. EQUIPMENT

- Nil

5. CLINICAL PRACTICE

- Ensure Medical Practitioner confirms the need for Emergency out of hours Physiotherapy following a physical assessment.
- Confirm with the medical record documentation that the woman has been reviewed by physiotherapy and is requesting ongoing urgent treatment out of hours. If there is no documentation in medical record from physiotherapist, no pre-arrangement has been made. If pre-arrangement has been made and documented for review and ongoing care out of hours, staff member to contact on-call physiotherapist for time of treatment confirmation
- Contact the on-call physiotherapist via switchboard if no pre-arrangement has been made, this contact is to be done by the reviewing Medical Practitioner. Do not leave a message on the physiotherapy department answering machine after hours as it will not get checked till business hours Monday-Friday
- Confirm reasons for an out of hours call to a physiotherapist which includes:
 - Sputum retention
 - Weak, ineffective cough
 - Recent and significant CXR changes
 - Dropping SaO₂, with difficulty stabilising or correcting with conservative measures
 - Decreasing level of consciousness
- Make an outpatient or inpatient physiotherapy referral for the following reasons as on their own they do not warrant an emergency call out. These women will be triage and seen by the physiotherapy team during business hours.
 - Asthma
 - For mobilising a patient
 - Back pain
 - Pelvic floor problems
 - Gait aid prescription

**PHYSIOTHERAPY – EMERGENCY AND URGENT OUT OF HOURS
CONSULTATION cont'd**

6. DOCUMENTATION

- Medical record

7. EDUCATIONAL NOTES

- On call physiotherapy is available on Saturday, Sunday and public holidays between 0800 hours and 1700 hours for emergency physiotherapy.
- The physiotherapist is available (within 30 minutes) to treat patients who have, or are likely to deteriorate if physiotherapy is not performed that day (Eg. emergency chest physiotherapy)

8. RISK RATING

- Low

9. NATIONAL STANDARD

- Standard 5 – Comprehensive Care

REVISION & APPROVAL HISTORY

Reviewed and endorsed Maternity Services LOPs 12/5/20

Approved Quality Council 14/4/03

Endorsed Gynaecology Clinical Committee 14/3/03

Endorsed Gynaecological Oncology Clinical Committee 6/12/02

FOR REVIEW : MAY 2025