

Job Description

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| Post: | Physiotherapist – Paediatric Palliative Care |
| Salary: | Band 7 (£43,742 - £50,056 pro rata) |
| Contract: | Permanent |
| Hours: | 15 hours per week (minimum) |
| Location: | Northern Ireland Childrens Hospice, Horizon House, 18 O'Neill Road, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim |
| Reports to: | Head / Deputy Head of Children's Hospice Services |

Role Overview:

The post holder will be a member of the multidisciplinary palliative care team within the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice. They will carry out all duties associated with the provision of Specialist Physiotherapy care. As an autonomous practitioner, often working as the only Physiotherapist on-shift they will undertake physiotherapy assessment, treatment and review of children with life limiting or life-threatening conditions, many of whom will have associated complex healthcare needs.

The post-holder will co-lead on service development, innovation, projects, teaching initiatives, supervision and governance of Children's Palliative Care Physiotherapy. They will take a lead role in the moving and handling training for care team staff and other staff groups as appropriate. The post-holder will have oversight of the hydrotherapy/leisure pool.

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Clinical Practice

- Be responsible for monitoring service provision through identifying, planning and prioritising the physiotherapy needs of children present within the Children's Hospice on a day-by-day basis, liaising with the care team manager/nurse in charge to ensure these activities are integrated into the overall plan for the day
- Undertake physiotherapy assessments and implement therapy programmes for children and young people with complex and palliative care needs.
- Work as a member of the hospice multi-disciplinary team, contributing to the effective and efficient planning of service allocations and linking with statutory services for relevant updates around children, young people and their families.
- Work on a rota basis as required.

- Act as a resource for physiotherapy within Children's Hospice and to provide advice, education and support to other members of the hospice team, ensuring that physiotherapy is incorporated into the holistic care of the child/young person.
- Undertake training with parents, carers, team members and others, and assess their competency to undertake care.
- Delegate care safely in accordance with NI Hospice Policy and professional guidelines.
- Keep up to date with developments in palliative care physiotherapy and maintain clinical practice and procedures in line with current recognised best practice and research outcomes.
- Contribute to local, regional and national networks and forums for Children's palliative care, if appropriate.
- Communicate effectively with children, parents and carers; with members of the multi-professional team and with outside agencies.
- Provide on-call support in exceptional circumstances during acute symptom management or end of life care, in negotiation with the hospice medical team/Head of Care.

Record Keeping / Resource Management

- Maintain contemporaneous, accurate and up to date records, consistent with NI Children's Hospice documentation standards.
- Record information requested by the organisation for statistical reports.
- Contribute and where appropriate lead on quality and safety initiatives within the NI Children's Hospice governance agenda.
- Provide accurate and timely risk assessments for the manual handling of children where required.
- Be responsible for undergraduate physiotherapy students and rotational physiotherapists on placement.
- Manage and utilise appropriately available resources and equipment.
- Ensure defective equipment is reported and made safe without delay.
- Order stock and supplies for the respiratory and aquatic therapy needs of the NICH.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the physiotherapist service in partnership with the Care Team Manager.

Educational, Training and Research

- Pursue excellence in physiotherapy care by keeping up-to-date with current best practice using advance clinical reasoning skills and identifying areas for development within the physiotherapy department.

- Take a lead role in research and clinical audit of the service in order to support and improve the provision of physiotherapy care in the Childrens Service
- Oversee and provide mandatory manual handling training to care team members, specialist and hospice at home staff, and other staff groups as determined appropriate.
- Contribute to induction programmes and similar for staff, volunteers and visitors new to the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice
- Participate in and deliver the ongoing skills development and competency assessment programmes for staff with particular regard to respiratory skills in conjunction with the Education Team.
- Undertake formal and informal training to enhance personal knowledge.
- Actively participate in the organisation's personal development review programme, identifying own learning needs and taking necessary steps to reach personal/professional objectives.
- Be an active member of the in-service training programme by attending and contributing to presentations and by attending external courses and practising reflective practice.
- Be an active part of competency-based learning for all grades of staff within NICH.

Aquatic Therapy Service

- Provide a safe and therapeutic aquatic therapy/leisure pool service to the children and their families that attend the children's hospice.
- Develop the policies and procedures required to ensure the safety of children, staff, volunteers and carers using the pool whether from within the children's hospice or from external agencies.
- Carry out appropriate risk assessments for all children wishing to use the pool.
- Provide training for all staff, volunteers and families wishing to use the pool ensuring that all users are aware of the normal and emergency operating policies for pool use.

Professional

- Maintain registration with the HPC and comply with their requirements in compiling and keeping updated personal portfolio.
- Develop effective working relationships within the multi-disciplinary team in order to provide effective, co-ordinated care for children and young people.
- Act as a role model for junior colleagues and be accountable for own professional decisions and actions at all times, demonstrating an ability to seek further guidance appropriately.
- Work within the Code of Professional Conduct.
- Network with other allied health professionals working in paediatric palliative care.

Other

- Attend multi-disciplinary team meetings actively contributing to agenda and discussions as relevant.
- Undertake and keep up to date with mandatory statutory training as required by the Northern Ireland Hospice.
- Work within the Northern Ireland Hospice and departmental policies and procedures.
- Participate in regular clinical supervision to reflect on practice.
- Participate in individual performance review annually
- Any duties as may be reasonably required commensurate with your post.

This Job Description is not meant to be definitive and may be amended to meet the changing needs of Northern Ireland Hospice

NORTHERN IRELAND HOSPICE

OUR VISION is that infants, children and adults with life-limiting and life-threatening illness and their families receive excellent and compassionate palliative care, thereby, maximising their quality of life.

In pursuit of this vision, our Mission is to inspire and deliver excellent and compassionate specialist palliative care via effective service models underpinned by exemplary education, innovation and research.

Underpinning this strategy are **OUR VALUES** which we will strive to live by daily.

WE BELIEVE IN

- **A culture of respect and acceptance without distinction or judgement, where everyone can belong**
- **Acting with courage, compassion and integrity to add value to all that we do**
- **Being pioneering, professional and accountable to deliver our very best**

Job Specification

Essential Criteria:

Qualifications/Education

- ◆ Degree or Diploma in Physiotherapy.
- ◆ Current registration with the Health Professions Council (HPC) / Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP)

Experience

- ◆ Have relevant post-registration in the provision of physiotherapy care to babies, children or young people with complex healthcare needs, including experience of caring for children with respiratory needs including those reliant on ventilatory support.
- ◆ Have experience in training and educating other professionals and carers.

Desirable Criteria:

- ◆ Experience of working with children with neuro-disabilities.
- ◆ Moving and Handling Trainer Course
- ◆ Experience in Aquatic Therapy.
- ◆ Lifeguard Qualification or Willingness to obtain same