

# Community Paediatric Physiotherapy

## Information for GPs



All babies, children and young people are important. They each have their own unique personality and potential. They deserve the best possible care and nurture to support their health and development.

### **What is a Community Paediatric Physiotherapist?**

Paediatric Physiotherapists are members of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy who work specifically with children as part of a team of other children's specialists.

Paediatric physiotherapists are concerned with the assessment, treatment and management of children who have a general developmental delay, disorder of movement, disability or illness that may be improved, controlled or alleviated by physiotherapeutic skills, sometimes with the use of specialised equipment. (APCP Standards of Practice)

### **Which conditions can be referred?**

The following criteria applies if the child has any of the following:

- a delay in achieving their motor milestones
- an identified neurological / rheumatology conditions
- demonstrate difficulties with balance and co-ordination that affect their academic achievements and activities of daily living
- is a deterioration in their physical abilities
- They require physical rehabilitation following injury, medical condition, or surgery.

### **How to refer a child to the Paediatric Physiotherapy Service**

Referral is made by letter - via the address opposite. Referrals by letter need to include Child's name, date of birth, current address, contact number, reason for referral, birth history and history of the problem/concern.

### **Where and when will the child be seen?**

Appointments are usually offered at therapy centres in your locality. If appropriate they may take place at home, nursery or school. Referrals are subject to a system giving priority to some conditions, so there may be a longer wait for some children than others.

## **What happens at the first appointment?**

The purpose of the first appointment is to:

- Assess the child to see if there is a difficulty
- Assess the type and severity of the difficulty
- Agree what action is needed.

There may also be standardised assessments carried out, where the scores form part of the report. We will discuss with the parents/carers the results of observations and tests during the assessment. Some children will need to attend more than one appointment to complete this assessment.

## **What happens following an assessment?**

A report will be written after the assessment. Copies of the reports are sent to parents/carers and other medical professionals involved in your child's care e.g. GP, consultant, OT (Occupational Therapist) and SALT (Speech and Language Therapist). If the child requires more Physiotherapy, treatment will be discussed with those involved.

## For further information about this service contact:

Physiotherapy Administration  
The Peacock Centre  
Brookfields Campus  
351 Mill Road  
Cambridge  
CB1 3DF

**Tel:** 01223 218065

If you require this information in a different format such as in large print or on audio tape, or in a different language please contact the service on the details above.

If you have any compliments about this service or suggestions for improvements, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 0300 131 1000 (charges may apply depending on your network) or email: [ccs-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ccs-tr.pals@nhs.net).

For free, confidential health advice and information 24 hours a day, 365 days a year please contact NHS 111.