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Australasian Faculty of
Rehabilitation Medicine

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians

Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine
(AFRM)

**Rehabilitation Medicine Physician Scope of
Practice
Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine**

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This document has been developed to define appropriate practice for physicians who specialise in Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine in Australia and New Zealand. The purpose of the document is to outline the Scope of Practice for Rehabilitation Medicine Physicians who hold Fellowship of the AFRM and provide rehabilitation services to children and young people aged 0 to 18 years. In certain circumstances, some Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine Physicians provide rehabilitation services to adults who have experienced congenital or paediatric onset conditions. In those situations, reference should be made to the Scope of Practice for Adult Rehabilitation Medicine. It is recognised that the interest and expertise of Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine Physicians noted here are not exclusive to holders of Fellowship of the AFRM.

Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine involves the provision of comprehensive rehabilitation services to children and young people with disability due to injury or disease with the aim of enabling the highest possible level of physical, mental and social functioning. Services are provided as inpatients, non-inpatients and in the community. Patients treated are those with congenital or acquired neurological, musculoskeletal and genetic conditions resulting in functional impairments for which rehabilitation is assessed to be beneficial in reducing the effects of disability.

Effective rehabilitation requires the coordinated efforts of an interdisciplinary team. The completion of training in Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine enables physicians to provide leadership to interdisciplinary teams in the provision of coordinated, patient and family-centred and goal-directed rehabilitation programs. Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine Physicians recognise their own abilities and limits in the context of the rehabilitation team, provide advocacy for their patients and their families and defend their rights in society. It is expected that Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine Physicians will continue to develop their competencies to ensure a high level of patient care throughout their practice.

The core competencies in Rehabilitation Medicine include but are not limited to:

- Patient Medical and Rehabilitation Evaluation
- Patient Medical and Rehabilitation Management
- Patient and Family Education and Support
- Administration and Leadership
- Prevention
- Continuing Medical Education
- Clinical Research
- Quality Management

Professional attitudes and behaviours for professional practice as a Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine Physician include:

- Patient Focus
- Professional Role
- Maintenance of Professional Standards
- Interdisciplinary Management
- Patient Advocacy

AFRM asserts that all physicians who have completed Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine specialty training have adequate training in the following areas:

1. Inpatient and outpatient medical and rehabilitation management of children and

- young people with musculoskeletal or neurological conditions requiring rehabilitation.
2. Assessment of body structure and function impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions, and evaluation of the potential for rehabilitation.
 3. Communication with other health practitioners including other health disciplines in the formulation and execution of rehabilitation plans.
 4. Promotion of prevention and/or early identification and management of conditions that may result in worsening/progressive disability.
 5. Rehabilitation assessment and management of children and young people with cerebral palsy.
 6. Management of hypertonia and hyperkinesia, including provision of interventions such as botulinum toxin A injections, phenol nerve blocks, management of intrathecal baclofen pumps and the selection of children and young people for selective dorsal rhizotomy or deep brain stimulation.
 7. Rehabilitation assessment and management of children and young people with acquired brain injury.
 8. Rehabilitation assessment and management of children and young people with congenital and acquired limb deficiencies.
 9. Assessment for and prescription of assistive equipment including orthotics, prosthetics, mobility aids and communication devices.
 10. Rehabilitation assessment and management of children and young people with neural tube defects.
 11. Provision of information and support at antenatal counseling sessions in regard to likely outcomes for children born with neural tube defects or congenital limb deficiencies.
 12. Rehabilitation assessment and management of children and young people with spinal cord injury or disease.
 13. Assessment of skin care and management of wounds.
 14. Rehabilitation assessment and management of children and young people with neuromuscular conditions.
 15. Rehabilitation assessment and management of children and young people with musculoskeletal conditions
 16. Rehabilitation assessment and management of children and young people with developmental/genetic/chromosomal syndromes resulting in physical disabilities.
 17. Provision of appropriate services to enable effective and timely transition to adult services for young adults with complex and chronic disabilities.

For more information on Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine and the Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine Curriculum, please visit the [RACP website](#).

In summary, Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine is a diverse specialty, involving the interdisciplinary care of children with acquired and congenital disabilities with an emphasis on maximising functional independence.

This document has been written with reference to:

1. Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFRM) Rehabilitation Physician Scope of Practice Adult Rehabilitation Medicine (November 2017).
2. The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP). Physician Readiness for Expert Practice Training Program (PREP). Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine Advanced Training Curriculum (December 2013)
3. RACP Advanced Training in Rehabilitation Medicine. 2015 Program Requirements

- Handbook. AFRM (2016)
4. RACP Advanced Training in Paediatric Rehabilitation Medicine. 2016 Program Requirements Handbook. AFRM, Paediatrics and Child Health Division (2016)