


Function Statement

Senior Community Physiotherapist (Community Rapid Response)



The Statement of Duties associated with this role is generic and is used for all generic Allied Health Professional positions in the Tasmanian Health Service State-wide. The purpose of this Function Statement is to give more information about the requirements of this clinical role. Please read this Function Statement alongside the Statement of Duties.

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| Title | Community Rapid Response Physiotherapist |
| Business Unit | Primary Health North, Community Rapid Response Team (ComRRS) |
| Location | Primary Health North, Allambi, 33-39 Howick St, Launceston, 7250 |
| Business Unit Description | <p>The Community Rapid Response Service (ComRRS) is an innovative service model that provides high acuity/high frequency intermediate care for patients with acute illness/injury or acute exacerbation of chronic and complex conditions, with the aim of avoiding hospitalisation. The ComRRS model is based on a “shared care” relationship with the patients GP, and a highly collaborative approach to care need for the referred clients is essential.</p> <p>The team are highly skilled clinicians led by a nurse practitioner and have a strong focus on excellence, responsiveness, and a holistic client-centred approach. The service receives an average of 100 referrals a month and is very highly regarded.</p> <p>The addition of allied health to ComRRS is aimed at further enhancing client outcomes and providing a valuable adjunct to the existing service delivery. The ComRRS Physiotherapist is expected to have exceptional generalist skills as a wide variety of clients and conditions are encountered in the role. An occupational therapy (OT) position has also recently been established within ComRRS and it is expected that the OT and Physiotherapist would work together to support provision of high-quality care and optimise recovery whenever appropriate.</p> <p>Being a Rapid Response Service, the aim is the provision of ‘high intensity, fairly immediate intervention’. The ComRRs Physiotherapy service will have a maximum response time of four business days and a maximum of six weeks of intervention.</p> <p>Clients will be seen based on a priority system based on risk of deterioration.</p> <p>Referrals to the service would be received directly from the GP based on the ComRRS eligibility criteria, as well as internal referrals from within the team. While some clients may receive both nursing and allied health services others will only receive allied health support.</p> |



Health conditions treated by ComRRS include (but are not limited to):

- Acute injury or illness (for example, falls, influenza, gastro)
- Exacerbation of chronic health conditions (for example, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, heart failure, diabetes)
- Infections (for example, respiratory tract, cellulitis, urinary)
- Nutritional deficiencies (for example, anaemia, dehydration)
- Acute renal or urinary conditions (for example, acute urinary retention)
- palliative care.

Types of nursing treatments performed include (but are not limited to):

- rapid assessment with direct feedback to the GP
- intravenous antibiotics
- medication management or infusions
- intravenous or subcutaneous fluid
- central venous access device management and support (for example, PICC, Hickmans, Infusaport)
- urinary catheter management.

Types of Physiotherapy interventions undertaken (but are not limited to):

- Falls risk assessments
- Acute injury management for falls
- Environmental assessment for falls
- Respiratory interventions (techniques to assist with breathlessness and sputum clearance methods, use of simple respiratory devices)

Clients can be seen where it best meets client's needs:


- home based settings
- residential aged care facility
- another appropriate setting in the community

The role is expected to be a Rapid Response, and assessment directly feedback to the referring GP as well as the ComRRS team. Referral on for ongoing support is also an expectation for this role.

Clinical Governance and any discipline specific concerns are directed to the Community Team Lead Physiotherapist and any operational concerns are reported to the ComRRS Nurse Practitioner. They will attend Community Physiotherapy team meetings and education.

ComRRS will undertake a risk assessment with all clients. This will ensure the home environment is safe for staff and clients for the duration of their admission to ComRRs.

A proportion of the northern Tasmania population has socio-economic disadvantage, high levels of chronic disease and low health literacy. Clients often



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| | only seek health support once they are in a difficult situation and struggling to remain functioning in their home. |
| Specific Duties/Responsibilities | <p>The primary client target groups for the ComRRS Physiotherapist are those who are directly referred to the service by GP or by the ComRRS team, who with rapid and immediate support, can avoid hospitalisation.</p> <p>The ComRRS Physiotherapist is responsible for triaging referrals and assigning priority based on the potential to avoid further deterioration in the client's medical condition or care arrangements, risk of hospital presentation or need for emergency care.</p> <p>ComRRS Physiotherapist operate geographically in and around Launceston.</p> <p>Clients are generally seen in short episodes of care (maximum 6 weeks) to address specific goals with a focus on hospital avoidance, and self-management.</p> <p>ComRRS Physiotherapists acts as a reference point for staff within THS-North department and helps support decision making and planning for client management in the community.</p> <p>Actively participate in service analysis and design, departmental education, and quality improvement projects.</p> |
| Preferred Experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum five years' experience as a physiotherapist. • Post-graduate qualification in relevant field or working towards. • Diverse and recent experience in the public healthcare setting. |
| Preferred Skills (see Statement of Duties) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current driver's licence • Extensive general physiotherapist experience and significant experience in Community settings. • Experience working with people and supporting carers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ from diverse cultural, linguistic and socioeconomic backgrounds ○ and understanding of the unique challenges these groups face when accessing health care • Proven skills in risk appraisal, ability to recognise and respond to medical deterioration interpersonal relationship, communication, negotiation, de-escalation, and conflict resolution. • Adaptability and flexibility in working style, with an ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ work both independently as a sole practitioner, and ○ work collaboratively as part of a wider multidisciplinary team ○ make decisions independently ○ collaborate with a broad range of services both within and outside the public health system to best support clients with complex needs |