



Position Description

Hand Therapist Physiotherapy

Position No:	11902-003
Report To:	Physiotherapy Team Leader Tauranga Hospital
Liaise with:	Physiotherapy staff Orthopaedic Medical staff Allied Health and Nursing staff

Main Purpose

To provide a comprehensive Hand Therapy service – but to be able to assist in musculoskeletal outpatients if required.

Principal Accountabilities

To co-ordinate and deliver an effective, efficient and clinically specialised Hand Therapy service

- » Referrals will receive timely and appropriate assessment and intervention
- » Delivers quality treatment to individual patients to optimise recovery
- » Ensures accurate documentation of patient related interventions
- » Ensures liaison / effective communication with other team members involved in the patient's care
- » Patients referred on to appropriate community agencies as required
- » Patient's social and cultural needs incorporated into client management
- » To ensure other staff members have a basic understanding of the management of acute hand therapy conditions and are able to provide basic cover in times of absence / leave
- » Participates in the acute weekend roster

To be an active member of the Physiotherapy and wider multidisciplinary team

- » Participate in and contribute to education within the Physiotherapy service and Tauranga Hospital as appropriate (with the emphasis on Hand Therapy)
- » Participates in relevant meetings / conferences / workshops as Physiotherapy representative as required
- » Involved in special projects and development / planning of services as required
- » Promotes Hand Therapy within hospital / other appropriate areas
- » Supports Physiotherapy team members in professional development and supervision processes – particularly junior staff

To act in a professional manner focused on provision of an excellent service

- » Maintains up to date Hand Therapy skills and knowledge appropriate to caseload requirements
- » Demonstrates commitment to quality service delivery and teamwork to achieve best outcomes - ensuring the development, implementation and review of protocols, handouts and best practice guidelines particularly related to Hand Therapy
- » Participates and initiates review and audit of Hand Therapy services
- » Demonstrates willingness to share own knowledge, information and skills, assists in training of others
- » Identifies a plan to develop and stimulate their own hand therapy knowledge and practice
- » Evaluates own performance and participates in supervision and performance appraisals

To ensure safe professional practice

- » Acts in accordance with clinical and legal standards
- » Adheres to safety (including infection control) and emergency standards regarding reporting, recording, use of equipment, procedures and prevention
- » Demonstrates a commitment to the unique cultural needs of patients in all aspects of physiotherapy practice

HAND THERAPIST PERSON SPECIFICATION

Education / Qualifications

Essential	Desirable
Degree / Diploma In Physiotherapy / Occupational Therapy	NZAHT - full registration
Registration with NZ PT / OT Board and current APC	
Completion of (or currently undertaking) 'Hand & Upper Limb therapy' certificate (or equivalent previous NZ / overseas qualification)	
Associate membership NZAHT	
Evidence of continued professional development – with a focus on hand and upper limb injuries	

Experience

Essential	Desirable
Extensive hand therapy / upper limb experience including management of nerve injuries, # management, tendon repairs, rheumatological conditions, amputees, joint instability, soft tissue trauma	
	Recent experience / participation in on call and weekend respiratory duties

Skills / Abilities

Essential	Desirable
Good verbal and written skills	Competent IT skills
Ability to work independently to treat a wide variety of hand therapy conditions, including the manufacture / provision of appropriate static & dynamic splints	
Ability to prioritise, delegate and organise	
Ability to cope with working in a busy environment	
Demonstrate an understanding of quality issues and audit	Experience of audit and quality issues
Ability to support junior staff	

Personality

Essential	Desirable
Good communicator	
Reliable	
Flexible	
Self motivated	
Team player	