

POLICY and PROCEDURE

Title:	Paediatric Clients at Student Led Clinics within the SCU Health Clinic		
Area:	Clinic		No. 14
Date Effective:	1/11/2017	Date Ratified:	28/4/2022
Date Reviewed:	7/04/2020	Next Review Date:	7/04/2022

Purpose:

- To ensure the safety and protection of paediatric clients who enter the facility for consultation.

Policy:

- Paediatric clients are defined as people under the age of 18 years.
- Students undertaking clinical placements are to be compliant with appropriate checks in accordance with the Professional Experience Unit (PEU) guidelines to enable them to consult with paediatric clients. Students are required to hold State-specific working with children clearance.
- Supervisors of paediatric consultations are required to hold State-specific working with children clearances, unless exempt by State specific rules:
 - In Queensland, supervisors do not require a blue card if they are registered health practitioners (as defined within the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009), and the work they are doing relates to their function as a registered health practitioner.
 - In NSW, Working with Children Check (WWCC).
- A parent or guardian must be in attendance at all times during any consultation.
- Clients have the right to refuse consultations.
- Unless specified in the below discipline specific inclusions, the client to supervisor ratio will not exceed 2:1 if any clients are under the age of 18 years.
- Unless specified in the below discipline specific inclusions, student to supervisor ratios are maintained as described within the SCU Health Clinic supervision policy (No. 15).
- The supervisor in question must reduce their supervisory load to comply with the supervision ratio.
- The clinical supervisor must have the appropriate qualifications in their discipline to enable them to consult on paediatric health concerns.
- Clinical supervisors must advise the Lecturer Practitioner developing the clinical proforma if they have the appropriate qualifications and experience to supervise paediatric cases.
- The Lecturer Practitioner will advise the Clinic Manager of the respective supervisor's suitability to manage paediatric cases prior to any client bookings being made in the clinic.

Special inclusions: Osteopathy

- All the clinical supervisors employed at SCU are registered osteopaths, which entitles them to practise osteopathy, including the management of paediatric clients. There is no credentialing at a statutory level in Australia. These practitioners can choose not to accept paediatric clients into their clinic, depending on their interest and currency of skills.
- Paediatric clients may be scheduled in the **Osteopathic Student Clinic** to see senior students after the student has been assessed as competent in the theoretical and practical paediatric components of their curriculum.
- Paediatric clients may be treated using a limited treatment protocol which specifically excludes any HVLA under the age of 10, and for those children over the age of 10, the paediatric client must be able to provide appropriate feedback and a supervisor must be present and give permission during the technique application.
- The requirements for supervision of a student treating a paediatric patient are as follows:
 - Under 5 years old – The supervisor must be present throughout the consultation (Authorisation to proceed with case history, assessment, treatment must be given by supervisor at each stage of consultation).
 - 5-17 years old – The supervisor must be present for the treatment only. (Authorisation to proceed with case history, assessment, treatment must be given by supervisor at each stage of consultation).

Special inclusions: Nursing

- Students are not permitted to administer vaccinations to paediatric clients 3 years and under.

Special inclusions: Podiatry and Pedorthics

- Client to supervisor ratio is 4:1
- Paediatric clients may only be booked for consultations with 3rd and 4th year students.

Procedure:

- Paediatric clients can be scheduled in the Clinic providing the supervisor has agreed to such supervision, holds the appropriate clearances and qualifications, and appropriate client to supervisor ratios remain.

YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY SHALL BE THE PRIORITY AT ALL TIMES

Related Legislation:

Infection Control AS4187
OHS Act 2000
National Safety & Quality and Health Service Standards
Privacy & Personal Information Act 1998
Health Records & Information Privacy Act 2002
The Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998
The Queensland Child Protection Act 1999
AHPRA - Code of ethics of each discipline:
<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/>
AHPRA – Standards for Registration for each discipline:
<http://www.ahpra.gov.au/>
Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009

Reference / Consulting Body:	Clinic Strategic Management Committee Clinical Governance Committee Clinic Operations Committee Practice-Based Education Specialist Teaching and Learning Committee Director of Teaching and Learning
Related Policies:	SCU SHHS Clinic: Reporting incidents SCU SHHS Clinic: Paediatrics Supervision Policy SCU Assessment Policy SCU Community Engagement Policy SCU Child safe Environment policy https://policies.scu.edu.au/
Related literature:	Siggins Miller Consultants 2012, <i>Promoting Quality in Clinical Placements: Literature review and national stakeholder consultation</i> , Health Workforce Australia, Adelaide. Good Practice Report: Work integrated learning. J. Orrell, ALTC. 2011