POLICY and PROCEDURE

Title: Paediatric Clients at SCU Health Clinic
Area: Clinic

Date Ratified: March 2019  Date Effective: March 2019
Date Reviewed: March 2019  Next Review Date: March 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 16 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.
- Clinical Supervisors of paediatric consultations are required to hold State specific working with children clearances, unless exempt by state specific rules:
  - In QLD, Clinical 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.
- Paediatric clients have the right to refuse consultations.
- Unless specified in the below discipline specific inclusions, the paediatric client to supervisor ratio will not exceed 2:1 if any clients are under 16 years.
- The Clinical Supervisor must have the appropriate qualifications in their discipline to enable them to consult on paediatric health concerns.

Special inclusions: Osteopathy
- No paediatric clients are to be scheduled in the Osteopathic Student Clinic before 1 June when students have been assessed on the paediatric theoretical and practical components of their course.
- After 1st June paediatric clients can be booked for consultations with osteopathic 5th year students, providing the Clinical supervisor has agreed to supervise paediatric consultations and appropriate arrangements for the supervision of other students has been made.
- Paediatric clients may be treated using a limited treatment protocol which specifically excludes any HVLA under the age of 10 years, and for those children 10 years or over, the
paediatric client must be able to provide appropriate feedback and a Clinical Supervisor must be present and give permission during the technique application.

- The requirements for supervisor to student ratio’s for paediatric patients 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).
  - Clients 5 years and over or under 16 years - 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: Speech Pathology

Speech Pathology Educators have a duty of care to both students and clients. Speech Pathology practice is to be guided by principles and policies outlined in documents such as *Improving Quality in Practice Placements - Allied Health iQIPP-AH*. Speech Pathology practice is also bound by various policies developed by the professional body Speech Pathology Australia.

Practice is also guided by information in documents such as the *Scope of Practice; Competency-based Occupational Standards for Speech Pathologists; and Principles of Practice.*


Clinical Placement Unit Guidelines for Speech Pathology Policies outlined by the National Health and Medical Council, such as the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care are also accessed for the purpose of Infection and Prevention control guidelines.

Special inclusions: Nursing

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

Special inclusions: Podiatry

- Appointments with paediatric clients do not require alteration of client-supervisor ratio.
- Student-supervisor ratios are maintained as described within the SCU Health Clinic Supervision Policy (No. 15).
- 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
- Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009

Reference / Consulting Body:
- SCU Child Safe Environment Policy Child 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

Related literature:
- Siggins Miller Consultants 2012, Promoting Quality in Clinical Placements: Literature review and national stakeholder consultation, Health Workforce Australia, Adelaide.