

Children's Therapies Service Outpatient referral criteria

The Children's Therapies Service is provided by a team of Specialist Children's Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists, as well as experienced Therapy Support Workers.

Senior therapists screen our referrals to ensure that they are appropriate for the service. Where this is not the case, referrals may be passed on to other agencies. If appropriate we may offer multi-disciplinary assessments.

Referral criteria

- ◆ Children from birth to 18 years old (up to 19 in special schools) with some exceptions - see ` Referrals accepted `below
- ◆ Children living in Bath and North East Somerset registered with a B&NES GP
- ◆ Children who live outside of BANES but who are registered with a BANES GP
- ◆ Children from BANES or adjacent counties who are under a Consultant led service e.g. congenital talipes, hip dysplasia, NICU follow up.
- ◆ Children who require specialised plaster casts or hydrotherapy (local agreements for out of county children)

Who can refer?

Referrals are accepted by any qualified health care or education professional for Occupational Therapy.

Referrals are accepted by any qualified health care professional for Physiotherapy
Self-re-referrals by parent / carer for their child are only accepted by prior agreement (for the same condition referred for) with the therapist for a time limited period of up to a maximum of 6 months from discharge.

How to refer

Referrals are accepted by directly by email, using the Children`s Therapies referral form (not HCRG SPA form), letter. If a patient initiated follow up has been agreed with a parent/carer, they can or by telephone to arrange follow up within the agreed time frame.

Children`s Therapies Department
Department 11, Zone B
Royal United Hospital
Combe Park
Bath BA1 3NG **Tel: 01225 824220**

ruh-tr.childrenstherapies@nhs.net

Referrals accepted: -

If a child has a functional problem (two or more for an OT referral) and/or pain, we will see children with: -

- ◆ Neurological conditions e.g. Cerebral Palsy, Head Injury
- ◆ Neuromuscular conditions e.g. Muscular Dystrophy, Spinal Muscular Atrophy
- ◆ Developmental difficulties, delay and syndromes affecting developmental milestones
- ◆ Motor co-ordination difficulties e.g. Developmental Co-ordination Disorder
- ◆ Children who have sensory difficulties impacting on specific functional activities
- ◆ Children with learning difficulties where there is a specific functional difficulty not in line with development
- ◆ Assessment of hand function
- ◆ Musculoskeletal problems e.g. altered walking patterns, leg postures, joint/ muscle pain (**young people over 12 years old are usually referred to their local adult physiotherapy service**)
- ◆ Orthopaedic conditions e.g. Talipes, Torticollis, Congenital Hip Dysplasia
- ◆ Rheumatology conditions e.g. juvenile arthritis (**young people over 16 years old are seen by the adult rheumatology service**)
- ◆ Respiratory conditions e.g. children who have difficulty clearing secretions (NB there is a separate specialist service for children with a diagnosis of Cystic Fibrosis at the RUH)

This is not a comprehensive list. If you have any questions about a referral, please phone and discuss it with us. Our office number is 01225 824220

There is a separate specialist service also based at the RUH for children and young people with a diagnosis of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Our team do not assess for ADHD – diagnosis must be from a Paediatrician

Waiting time

Our waiting time varies depending on number of referrals and staffing levels at any one time. However, we aim for our maximum waiting time from receipt of referral to be no more than 8 weeks but cannot guarantee this. Currently the OT team do have capacity issues and have a considerably longer wait. Children are seen by clinical priority.

More urgent referrals are prioritised and seen within 2 weeks of receipt of referral e.g. babies or children who's condition needs faster intervention

Children`s Therapies RUH, 2023

