

Vancouver Paediatric Team – Physiotherapy Services

Physiotherapists are primary health care professionals with a significant role in health promotion and treatment of injury and disease. They combine their in-depth knowledge of the body and how it works with specialized hands-on clinical skills to assess, diagnose and treat symptoms of illness, injury or disability. (Canadian Physiotherapy Association, 2019)

School-based physiotherapy (PT) addresses students' mobility and functional needs to support their participation in the school setting. Services can include assessment of the student's functional and physical skills, development of specific care plans and recommendations to support the student in the school environment. PT services can also include promotion of inclusive practices to allow students to participate fully in school-related activities as well as training and educational workshops for school staff.

Students who have challenges with mobility and environmental access may be eligible to receive services from Vancouver Paediatric Team (VPT) PT.

PLEASE REFER STUDENTS TO VPT PT SERVICES FOR THE FOLLOWING NEEDS:

- Mobility (e.g. transfers, walking, stairs, stroller and/or wheelchair prescription, home and/or school accessibility)
- Musculoskeletal (e.g. postural alignment, joint function, joint protection, gross motor skills, PE adaptation, leisure activities)
- ADLs affected by mobility challenges (e.g. toileting, dressing)
- Cardiorespiratory (e.g. breath control; secretion clearance)
- Skin & wound management (e.g. wound healing & prevention)
- Fatigue and/or pain management related to medical diagnosis
- Training of school staff to support use of specialised equipment at school

If the student has a physiotherapy report with recommendations already on the school file, please trial the recommendations prior to submitting a referral.

TO MAKE A REFERRAL TO VPT PT:

Referrals for the VPT Physiotherapy services may be received from school based team members - i.e. resource and/or classroom teachers, or District Learning Services staff. Please complete the online referral form, located on the Vancouver Paediatric Team webpage.

INDICATIONS FOR DISCHARGE FROM VPT PT PROGRAM:

Students are discharged when:

- They move out of the catchment area served by the program
- They graduate from high school and are 19 (when they are eligible for adult services)
- Goals have been met and/or no further services are required (e.g. School based staff is aware of and understands implication of the student's medical and/or physical condition and is managing the student's needs appropriately or PT support is no longer affecting change in the student's level of function or rate of skill acquisition)
- Care needs can be met in an alternate setting, e.g. through third party benefit
- Care needs are no longer within the scope of the VPT
- The student/family no longer desires clinical care or is unwilling to establish and/or maintain contact with VCH staff (i.e. client withdraws consent)

If the student's educational needs change due to a change in their medical or functional status, a new referral can be initiated.