

Allied Health Assistances in Cardiorespiratory and Paediatrics Physiotherapy

Cardiorespiratory

The Cardiorespiratory service has a growing scope for allied health assistance. AHA led interventions included but are not limited to:

-Providing therapy for patients with Cystic Fibrosis, ensuring a minimum of twice daily therapy provided during admissions. AHA able to complete both airway clearance and exercise programs and assessment.

-Assisting physiotherapist in ICU with complex manual handling of debilitated patients.

-Performing suction via closed units for intubated ICU patients allowing the therapist to maintain patient support.

-Creating personalised exercise programs for patients from ICU through to the wards, providing increased therapy

To achieve these goals, competencies were created to ensure Allied health assistants work with in the scope of practice.

Paediatrics

The Paediatric service uses the AHA role to assist with:

-Hydrotherapy sessions with a physiotherapist as well as AHA led sessions

-Mobilising patient on the wards progressing mobility. A Gait aid prescription competency was created for this.

-Assisting a physiotherapist with casting lower limbs.

-Future scope of an Paediatric AHA may include having an AHA outpatient lists, and seeing orthopedics patients preoperatively orthopedics



AHA

Having an allied health assistant trained and working in specific areas such as cardiorespiratory and paediatric will decrease the time a physiotherapist needs to spend time with these patient types and focus on more critically ill patients.

With more work and development of these two areas this could assist with better patient outcomes and increase scope of practice for grade 3 allied health assistants.

The paediatric and cardiorespiratory (paed/cardio) AHA role is a new Grade 3 AHA specialty role, with specific training and competencies within physiotherapy at Monash Medical Centre.

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