

ALLIED HEALTH Policy & Protocol

TITLE:	Consultation for X-rays by Physiotherapists	NUMBER: 7001
Sponsor:	Director of Interprofessional Practice	Page: 1 of 5
Approved by:	Medical Advisory Committee	Approval Date: January 19 th , 2016 Effective Date: February 1 st , 2016
Applies To:	Physiotherapists and Diagnostic Imaging	

POLICY STATEMENTS

1. Physiotherapists employed by the IWK Health Centre may request plain film x-rays for clients in their care once they have demonstrated the required competencies as defined by:
 - 1.1. *Competency Profile for Physiotherapists Requesting X-rays* (Appendix A),
 - 1.2. *Accountability Document for Physiotherapists Requesting X-rays*.
2. Physiotherapists who have demonstrated the required competencies will be added to a roster, held by the Professional Practice Chief of Physiotherapy.
3. The Professional Practice Chief of Physiotherapy will provide Diagnostic Imaging with a current list of rostered Physiotherapists employed by the IWK to be reviewed annually and revised as staff changes occur.
4. Physiotherapists rostered to request plain film x-rays will be required to demonstrate continued competency on an annual basis.
5. The Physiotherapist requesting an x-ray is accountable for notifying the appropriate health care providers, as defined by the protocol below, in the case of findings that are outside of their scope of practice and require follow up by the family physician/general practitioner.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

The IWK Health Centre is committed to supporting and providing an environment where all health care professionals can practice to their optimized scope. This policy is designed to improve timeliness and efficiency in meeting patient's diagnostic needs and permits Physiotherapists to optimize their scope of practice in order to expedite appropriate assessment and treatment planning.

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Requesting plain film x-rays to complete a comprehensive assessment was identified through the Models of Care in Nova Scotia (MOCiNS) process as a role function of Physiotherapists that is expected to be optimized in the new Collaborative Care Model. It is within the scope of practice of a Physiotherapist with entry level competencies to assess a client and determine that diagnostic imaging is required to provide a more complete assessment and help to guide the remainder of the assessment and treatment. (Physiotherapy Act, 1998)

PROTOCOL

1. The Physiotherapist will assess for previous radiological studies in an effort to avoid unnecessary duplication of x-ray studies.
2. The Physiotherapist will complete and sign a radiology requisition indicating the specific area for imaging and relevant clinical background.
3. The patient will be given the requisition and provided the relevant information required by the patient and family to obtain their x-ray.
4. After completion of the x-ray, the Physiotherapist may discuss the findings with a collaborating Physician in clinic, when appropriate.
5. The radiology report will be available through the PACS or XERO once it has been signed by the Radiologist. It will also be sent by the Diagnostic Imaging department directly to the physiotherapist, the client's family physician and a specialist identified on the requisition as appropriate.
6. In the case of findings that require follow up by the family physician/general practitioner, the Physiotherapist will contact the physician via telephone to ensure they received the report and to confirm follow up.
 - 6.1. If the client does not have a family practitioner, the Physiotherapist will direct the client to an appropriate outpatient facility, or local emergency department, along with a note indicating the concerns and referencing the x-ray report.
 - 6.2. The Physiotherapist may not comment on findings outside their scope of practice.

REFERENCES

Physiotherapy Act, Bill no.80, Chapter 22 (1998).

<http://nslegislature.ca/legc/statutes/physiotherapy.pdf>

Model of Care Initiative in Nova Scotia (MOCiNS) Standardized Role Descriptions (DRAFT)

http://novascotia.ca/dhw/mocins/docs/Physiotherapist_Standardized_Role_Profile.pdf

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Collaborative Care Agreement, Consultation for X-rays by Physiotherapists, 2015
Accountability Document for Physiotherapists Requesting X-rays

Appendices

Appendix A – Competency Profile for Physiotherapists Requesting X-rays

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Appendix A – Competency Profile for Physiotherapists Requesting X-rays

Process

The Physiotherapist will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the following:

- The elements of a complete x-ray requisition (i.e. Patient name, unit number, DOB, address, appropriate views, limb, signature, relevant history, etc.)
- The responsibilities of the PT in the request and processing of the x-ray requisition
 - A review of PACS/XERO to determine if the specific study has been previously requested
 - The relevant information required by the patient and family in order to obtain an x-ray (i.e. DI hours, location, process, time for read report, etc.)
- Viewing images and Radiology reports including awareness of the Radiologists' schedule and the procedure for consulting the Radiologist for an opinion on a requested x-ray

Diagnostic Radiology and Patient Selection

The Physiotherapist will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding concepts related to:

- Anterior/posterior/lateral/oblique, patellar skyline, Harris heel, and Frog leg lateral x-ray views
- Accepted conditions that have been determined to be appropriate for an x-ray request
- Condition criteria for justification of medical radiation exposure
- Required medical data to support the justification of medical radiation exposure

Radiation Safety

The Physiotherapist will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- Medical radiation relevant to requesting x-rays
- Properties of radiation
- Biological effects of radiation
- The risks and hazards of the irradiation of the pediatric patient

Accountabilities

The Physiotherapist will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- The AEMS procedure in the event a patient undergoes an unintended procedure and has a medical radiation exposure
- The required medical follow up and process in the event of an incidental finding on the x-ray report
- The documentation requirements following an x-ray request

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District Health Authority/IWK Policies Being Replaced

This is a new IWK Health Centre Policy

Version History

(To Be Completed by the Policy Office)

Major Revisions (e.g. Standard 4 year review)	Minor Revisions (e.g. spelling correction, wording changes, etc.)

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