**Job Description (TEMPLATE)**

1 Job Details

### Job title: Research Physiotherapist

**Pay band:** 6

Directorate: Clinical Research

**Ward/Dept** **Base:** XX

**Hospital Site:** XX

**Essential Requirements**

* Degree or equivalent diploma in Physiotherapy
* State Registered with Health Professions Council
* Substantial post graduate / registration clinical/research experience
* Evidence of formal post-graduate courses and CPD.
* High level of planning and organisational skills
* Excellent communicational and interpersonal skills
* Ability to work autonomously
* IT skills including experience of Microsoft office

**Desirable requirements**

* Experience of physiotherapy management and use of Orthotics in Neuromuscular diseases
* Presentation skills.
* Basic knowledge of statistics in medical research.
* Knowledge of research methodology

2 Job Purpose

* Under the direction of the consultant physiotherapist, to be responsible for the assessment of patients participating in national and international clinical trials. These include both children and adults with a variety of neuromuscular conditions, specifically DMD, but also including GNE myopathy, SMA and LGMDs as well as other conditions.
* Will be part of the multidisciplinary team participating in clinics for adults and children with neuromuscular diseases.

3 Dimensions

Suitable post for an experienced physiotherapist wishing to expand the research sphere of their professional development.

**4 Organisational arrangements**

**Reports to:** Consultant Physiotherapist / Consultant

**Line managed by:**  Consultant Physiotherapist / Consultant

**Professionally accountable to:** Consultant Physiotherapist / Consultant

# **5 Knowledge Training and Experience**

* Degree or equivalent diploma in Physiotherapy
* State registered with the Health Professions Council
* Substantial post graduate / registration clinical/research experience
* Have the ability to reflect and critically appraise own performance so as to maintain own Continued Professional Development (CPD) participating in internal and external development opportunities recording learning outcomes in a portfolio.
* Maintain and develop current knowledge of evidence based practice in the management of neuromuscular patients, developing highly specialist knowledge of patient management and clinical research practice
* Highly specialised understanding of physiotherapy clinical practices and procedures.
* Understanding of good clinical practise in research, together with knowledge of clinical governance, research governance, research ethics and Trust R&D policy.
* IT literate with experience of Microsoft Office

# **6 Skills**

### Communication and Relationships

* To provide and receive complex patient information including diagnosis and prognosis, which may be sensitive and where there may be barriers to communication due to patients’ physical and psychological conditions. The research physiotherapist needs to be able to assess if a child may have cognitive impairment and not be able to co-operate.
* To communicate effectively with patients and their carers if necessary, to provide them with information about clinical trials using well developed skills of patient education to provide information in an understandable, comprehensive and unbiased manner prior to obtaining informed written consent for trials.
* To communicate with GPs, Neurologists and other specialists where necessary with regard to patient assessment details, adverse events or complications at any time during the trials.
* To communicate effectively and work collaboratively with the wider multi -disciplinary team, including medical, nursing, and other therapy colleagues to provide feedback of clinical research that may facilitate delivery of a co-ordinated multi-disciplinary service to patients.
* To establish and develop key working relationships with all members of the neuromuscular team.
* To be responsible for communicating the trial protocol to all staff involved and any changes to ensure the safe and effective running of the trials.
* To communicate effectively with the sponsor of specified research trials.

# **Analytical and Judgemental Skills required for the post**

* To interpret and analyse a range of clinical and non-clinical facts relating to individual patients presenting with a wide range of complex and highly complex neurological conditions. The research therapist needs to be able to recognise factors such as weakness or contractures or other co-morbidities that may affect performance. This is essential to make accurate assessments and also to be guided by these factors that may require them to alter the way in which they physically examine or treat a patient and or determine their suitability for inclusion in trials.
* In a clinical setting, to undertake a comprehensive highly specialist assessment of patients, plan and implement an appropriate programme of physiotherapy care using advanced clinical reasoning and determine the most appropriate treatment methods from a range of physiotherapy options. The physiotherapist first needs to be able to identify problems to be able to assess the patient as well as plan a modified treatment.

# **Planning and Organisational skills required for the post**

* To plan and prioritise own on-going workload
* To be responsible for the assessment of patients in specified clinical research trial without direct supervision.
* To assist with on-going monitoring and analysis of patient recruitment and problems encountered in research trial in order to affect and manage appropriate changes and the smooth running of the trial.
* To be responsible for changes to the protocol and communicate these changes with all other staff that may be involved. This may also require timely liaison with outside agencies such as ethics committee or with clinical trial co-ordinators.
* To contribute to the planning of new clinical research trials and to be involved in writing trial protocols, patient information sheets, and consent forms.
* To be involved in the development of new outcome measures for various neuromuscular diseases.
* To be involved with the multi-disciplinary team planning for clinics both adults and children.

# **Physical dexterity skill requirements**

* To demonstrate highly developed physical skills including dexterity for assessment and application of a range of physiotherapy treatment and techniques including the therapeutic handling of patients.
* Basic keyboard skills for a wide range of data entry and retrieval activities.

# **7 Key result areas**

### Patient / Client care

* To provide a highly specialist clinical service by undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the patient’s condition.
* To evaluate physiotherapy treatment programmes based on knowledge of evidence based practice and available treatment options using highly advanced clinical assessment and analytical skills. Treatments will include complex interventions including exercise and other programmes.
* To participate in the assessment of patients requiring orthotic intervention and to evaluate the type of orthosis required.
* To liaise with local carers and therapists where patients are attending outside the region to ensure that information and care requirements are communicated.
* To evaluate and monitor patient progress ensuring patients receive the highest possible standards of care.

# **Policy and Service Development**

* To carry out all duties in accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy and Trust policies and procedures.
* To carry out all duties in accordance with local clinical protocols and standards in the speciality
* To use evidence based practice, audits and published research to inform own practice.
* To comment on and contribute to research proposals in relation to evaluation of different exercise modalities. To collect and manage research data, which contributes to national and international databases.
* To demonstrate a sound understanding of clinical governance and risk management and apply this to the work situation. To attend clinical governance meetings.

# **Financial and Physical Resources**

* Exercise a personal duty of care with expensive equipment provided by the Trust.
* Monitor use of supplies for research activities and advise when supplies required.

# **Human Resources**

* Conform to Trust Policies, Procedures and Guidelines
* Complies with Trust Health and Safety Policies
* Will attend mandatory updates
* Promote Equality and Diversity rights
* Comply with Dignity and Respect at Work Policy
* To participate in staff appraisal scheme and personal development planning as an appraise
* To demonstrate a commitment to own continual professional development through participation in internal and external development opportunities evidencing learning outcomes in a portfolio
* To act as an educational resource in clinical research for patients and other members of the multidisciplinary team involved with the care of neuromuscular patients.
* Participates in special interest groups within the Directorate in order to promote staff education and program development.

# **Information Resources**

* The post holder is expected to take a role in improving, maintaining and promoting data quality throughout the organisation. Ensuring the accuracy of all patient records, paper and computerised are accurate and up to date at all times.
* To maintain accurate and secure database of patients recruited into study and ensure that Caldicott Guidelines are adhered to at all times.
* To navigate electronic databases and online resources for literature searches of medical publications and other reference material.
* To design and create reports and presentations.

### Research and Development

* To be responsible for the day to day running of specified clinical research trials
* To ensure that staff taking part in the trial are informed, and trained in any additional skills required for implementing the trial.
* To ensure that Good Clinical Practise (GCP) underpins the trials and promote GCP to other staff involved with the trial.
* To assist with design, implementation and evaluation of recruitment strategies for study participants including taking informed consent and adherence to these protocols. Requires ability to assess patient eligibility for trial by reviewing medical records and assessing the patient.
* To communicate the trial protocol to other members of the team involved, identifying the stage of recruitment / passage of patient through the trial, updating them on any changes in the trial protocol, to ensure the safe and effective running of the trial.
* Prepare accurate and timely reports (both written and electronic) of trial status, and presentation of data as necessary.
* To be involved in the preparation of data, and provide information required to write up papers for publication in peer reviewed journals.
* To present research findings at internal clinical research meetings and at national and international academic meetings as appropriate.
* To contribute to other research activities under the direction of the consultant physiotherapist.

# **8 Freedom to act**

* To work to professional code of conduct
* To comply with all Trust and Departmental policies, procedures and clinical protocols
* To work autonomously on specified clinical research trials with minimal supervision but the Principal Investigator and consultant physiotherapist are available for support.
* To understand the complex ethical issues pertaining to research staff involved in clinical trials.

#### Clinical governance

* To be responsible for contributing to Clinical Governance work within the Trust Scope of Practice Guidelines, whilst adhering to national and local policies and procedures.
* To ensure that the implementation of research projects complies with the organisational and professional standards and policies.

# **9 Effort & Environment**

### Physical

* Combination of sitting, standing and walking is required.
* Regular testing muscle strength in adults.
* Regular sitting and moving on the floor for assessments with myometry and functional scales.
* Regularly required to manoeuvre patients or objects in line with trust guidelines, using appropriate aids.
* Regular periods of sustained seating at a workstation.
* Attend annual moving and handling update.

### Mental

* Daily concentration required for assessing and examining patients.
* Frequent concentration required for updating databases and carrying out other computer tasks.
* Occasional concentration required for analysing data and preparing reports and/or data for publication and presentations.

### Emotional

* Occasional exposure to dealing with difficult or distressed patients and relatives.
* May provide support to colleagues in a personal a professional capacity

### Working conditions

* Regular exposure to VDU screen.