

## Policy: **Care of Children and Young Persons**

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### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide the guiding principles for the provision of Hospital and Outpatient-based care for children and young people (this is inclusive of those aged 0 up to the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday).

Where services are not designated specifically for children and young people, liaison must be maintained with specialists and services from Kidz First Children's Hospital and Community Health and Whirinaki Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

### Scope

This policy is applicable to all CM Health employees, (full-time, part-time and casual [temporary] including contractors, visiting health professionals and students providing services to children and young people in any CM Health facility.

### Principles

- Children and young people and their families/whanau should be cared for by staff whose knowledge and skills enable them to respond appropriately to the clinical, emotional, developmental, educational and cultural needs.
- CM Health healthcare professionals should take all reasonable steps to promote a positive psychological outcome by minimising physical and emotional pain, trauma and distress and ensuring that strategies are in place to address these if they occur.
- Every child and young person receiving healthcare and disability support should have access to, and opportunities to participate in, play, recreation, education and creative activities.
- Healthcare of children and young people should be family-centred. CM Health will support a parent/caregiver/guardian to stay with the child or young person and accompany/support them during procedures or interventions, where it is consistent with good clinical practice.
- In general, care for children and young people under the age of 15 shall be separate from that provided for adult patients. Exceptions to this might include Women's Health, ICU and Mental Health.
- Accommodation, facilities and equipment should be appropriate to the needs of children and young people.
- Children and young people's rights to privacy need to be considered and respected when healthcare professionals are informing families unless there are risks of harm to self, harm to others or others harming them. Each situation requires individual consideration.

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<b>Counties Manukau Health</b>			

## Care of the Children and Young Persons Policy

- Any service delivering care to children and young persons must act upon issues of abuse or neglect in accordance with Child Protection Policies and Procedures to ensure a child or young person's safety is always maintained.
- Children and young people should have information conveyed in a manner appropriate to their age, maturity, understanding and culture. They need to be informed of privacy entitlements and should be:
  - Asked their opinion/understanding of the procedure/ intervention.
  - Encouraged to participate in decisions which affect them.
  - Enabled to participate in providing informed consent if competent to do so. (This should be read in conjunction with the [CM Health Informed consent policy](#)).
  - Encouraged to be actively involved in their own care.

## Definitions

Terms and abbreviations used in this document are described below:

<b>Child</b>	A boy or girl under the age of 14 years (Oranga Tamariki Act 2017 s2(1)).
<b>Young person</b>	Means a boy or girl of or over the age of 14 years, but under 17 years but does not include any person who is or has been married or in a civil union (Oranga Tamariki Act 2017).

## Associated Documents

Other documents relevant to this policy are listed below:

<b>NZ Legislation</b>	Oranga Tamariki Act 2017. Care of Children Act 2004.
<b>NZ Standards</b>	Health and Disability Sector Standards (HDSS). National Mental Health Sector Standards (NMHSS).
<b>CM Health Clinical Board Policies</b>	Informed Consent . Tikanga Best Practice Policy, (Maori Responsiveness). Child Abuse and Neglect Policy. Child Abuse and Neglect Procedure. Paediatric Admission Criteria for Manukau Surgery Centre.
<b>Other related documents</b>	UNICEF- Rights of the child. Health and Disability Sector Standards.(HDSS) (Children and Young People).

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