

## What is the IPATS Repatriation Service?

Many children are admitted to CHI from a Regional hospital each day, usually for specialist input that cannot be provided for closer to home. Many of these children will improve and reach a point where they may need a little more time in hospital, but not necessarily in a tertiary centre.

This service aims to ensure that these patients can be safely transferred back to their referring hospital once they have stabilised and no longer need higher level care. Nurses selected for this team are highly experienced paediatric nurses with extensive competency portfolios.

This will allow children to be cared for as close to home as possible & should also ensure a continuous flow of patient movement that ensures that a bed is always available in CHI for a child that needs it. All Regional units are aware of the process & are happy to accept appropriate referrals if a bed is available

A parent can expect to travel with their child though we will have very limited capacity for personal belongings. Siblings cannot be accommodated on transfers for safety reasons.

Please discuss potential repatriation with parents soon after admission to CHI so they are aware of the potential for transfer

## Who is suitable for transfer by the repatriation team?

The following are some of the criteria used to select children for this service:

- Originally referred to CHI from a Regional paediatric unit/ED
- >24hr of anticipated inpatient therapy left before expected discharge home
- No continuous intravenous medications apart from Parenteral nutrition / Intravenous Fluids
- Stable clinically with no deterioration expected during or following transfer
- All required consults/scans and procedures completed
- Children with stable tracheostomies and/or long-term home ventilation are suitable for referral

## How to refer to the Repatriation Team

- Try to anticipate patient suitability 24hr before transfer (review the STOPP tool as useful guide)
- Advise ward manager if you have a patient who meets the criteria
- They will discuss with cross-site bed flow team who will decide which child is referred to the repat team

Once the bed flow manager advises that your patient has been selected for repatriation:

1. Complete the referral STOPP tool (at nurses' station)
  2. Discuss & agree transfer with patient's parents \*ideally already highlighted on admission\*
  3. Contact Regional hospital and obtain contact details for accepting consultant & ward manager and confirm bed is available within the planned timeframe (short call only)
  4. Provide completed STOPP tool to the bed flow manager who will make the referral
  5. Participate in a short bridge call between the accepting, referring & transport team to confirm timeline & suitability
  6. Team to ensure relevant documentation available as per the green box on page 2 of STOPP tool
- Please provide parents with repatriation service parent information booklet (at nurse's station)
  - Please inform repatriation team via **1800 222 378** if there is any clinical deterioration prior to transfer
  - The repatriation nurse will review patient, meet the family & prepare for transfer at the time agreed during referral call

**THE FINAL DECISION TO TRANSFER THE PATIENT IS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE  
REPATRIATION NURSE & IPATS CONSULTANT**