

Module Overview

Please note: This module must be read in conjunction with the [Fundamentals of the Framework](#) (including glossary and acronym list) and [Children’s Services - Preamble](#).

Children’s medical services comprise many specialties and require significant support services to provide safe patient care. These services are provided by medical practitioners and/or a range of registered medical specialists, nursing and allied health professionals (with adequate support services) in addition to multidisciplinary teams. Additionally, a small number of patients may require superspecialist services for complex clinical issues.

Children’s medical services include the following:

adolescent medicine	endocrinology	neurology
allergy	emergency & critical care medicine	paediatric pathology
cardiology	gastroenterology	paediatric radiology
child development	general paediatrics	palliative care
child protection	hepatology	rehabilitation medicine
clinical genetics	immunology	rheumatology
clinical haematology	infectious diseases	sleep medicine
clinical immunology	medical oncology	thoracic medicine
community child health	metabolic medicine	transplantation medicine
dermatology	nephrology / renal medicine	

Selection of appropriate service on patient presentation is dependent upon the child’s medical risk. However diagnosis may not be clearly established on presentation, and/or the child’s course of illness may change during hospitalisation, therefore it is essential patient status is regularly reassessed. Where patient risk increases or their condition deteriorates, transfer to a more appropriate medical service is required. Achieving optimum patient care and management depends on timely access to required medical expertise.

Service Networks

In addition to the requirements outlined in the [Fundamentals of the Framework](#), specific service network requirements include:

- > documented processes at each level of medical service with public or licensed private health facility(s) for referral and transfer of patients to/from higher capability level services to provide safe, ongoing care and management of children.

Service Requirements

In addition to the requirements outlined in the [Fundamentals of the Framework](#), specific service requirements include:

- > provide relevant clinical indicator data to satisfy accreditation and other statutory reporting obligations.
- > compliance with SA Health policy directives and guidelines that are referenced at:
 - > [SA Health Policy Directives](#)
 - > [SA Health Policy Guidelines](#)
 - > [SA Health Clinical Directives and Guidelines](#)

Workforce Requirements

The CSCF does not prescribe staffing ratios, absolute skill mix, or clerical and/or administration workforce requirements for a team providing a service, as these are best determined locally and in accordance with relevant industrial instruments. Where minimum standards, guidelines or benchmarks are available, the requirements outlined in this module should be considered as a guide only. All staffing requirements should be read in conjunction with the *Health Care Act 2008*, Awards and relevant Enterprise Agreements including, but not limited to:

- > SA Health Salaried Medical Officers Enterprise Agreement 2013
- > SA Health Visiting Medical Specialists Enterprise Agreement 2012
- > SA Health Clinical Academics Enterprise Agreement 2014
- > Nursing/Midwifery (South Australian Public Sector) Enterprise Agreement 2013
- > SA Ambulance Service Enterprise Agreement 2011
- > SA Public Sector Wages Parity Enterprise Agreement Salaried 2014

Medical Services - Children's	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Service description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > provides ambulatory care, generally during business hours, for children and their parent / carer / guardian(s), with no inpatient care, including initiatives for universal, selective and indicated populations to promote children's survival, development, protection and participation. > care is delivered in a variety of community settings, including child health clinics, multipurpose health clinics, schools and home-based care. > predominantly provided by registered nurse or registered midwife for maternity care, nurse practitioner, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker or allied health professionals and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - rapid health assessment for the sick child - routine child health care - prevention and promotion of health - screening and early diagnosis of conditions for early intervention and treatment or referral - chronic / long-term care and management. > interventions may include family assessment, immunisation, parenting education and support programs, feeding support, developmental screening, sexual health programs, environmental health and disease control, and alcohol and substance abuse programs. > capable of providing limited treatment for minor injuries and illnesses, basic life support and limited stabilisation prior to transfer to higher level of service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > primarily provides planned ambulatory care for healthy children, usually in rural and remote locations. > provides limited inpatient service with short-term coverage, which can provide low-risk acute care and treatment to a child. > capable of providing basic life support for children and provides limited stabilisation of children who require transfer to higher level of service within relevant children's service network. > documented consultation and referral links with higher level services within relevant children's service network, and particularly with retrieval and outreach services such as Royal Flying Doctor Service and visiting Level 4 services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > provides definitive planned and unplanned ambulatory and/or inpatient care for children and may provide subspecialty ambulatory referral system. > may also provide general practitioner ambulatory services. > Inpatient services usually treat single-system disorders for children with low-acuity medical conditions. > children with complex social issues and pre-existing significant comorbidities typically not admitted at this level. > allocated bed area or bay of inpatient children's beds available. > capable of providing advanced life support for children and can stabilise children who require transfer to higher level of service within relevant children's service network. > documented consultation and referral links with higher-level services within relevant children's service network. > medical and surgical outreach services may visit on day basis, and service capability may increase during this time, where formally approved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > provides ambulatory and/or inpatient care. > ambulatory care may occur within community and/or service facility, and provides multidisciplinary team approach to broad range of conditions (e.g. developmental assessment teams). > inpatient service provides designated children's ward, and all children up to age of 14 years should be admitted to children's ward (flexibility with adolescents should be exercised). > may be some exceptions to ages specified in this document dependent on local policies and circumstances. > all admitted infants of less than 3 months of corrected age must be involved with paediatric medical services team on admission. > admitted children with complex social issues or significant comorbidities must have combined care with paediatric medical team. > registered medical specialist with credentials in paediatrics accessible 24 hours to support inpatient services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > provides definitive ambulatory and/or inpatient care with some subspecialty services available. > has stand-alone multidisciplinary teams in some specialties (e.g. rehabilitation, child protection and developmental services). > service provided separately from neonatal services with access to Level 5 neonatal service. > any child under age of 3 months (corrected) admitted overnight for procedure that is not general paediatric surgery should have medical consultation by registered medical specialist with credentials in paediatrics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > provides most complex medical services to children on statewide and interstate basis. > specialties include adolescent medicine, cardiology, child development, child protection, clinical genetics, community child health, dermatology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, general paediatrics, infectious diseases, immunology, medical imaging, metabolic medicine, nephrology, neurology, oncology and haematology, palliative care, pathology, rehabilitation medicine, respiratory medicine, rheumatology and transplantation medicine where appropriate, specialties accessible 24 hours a day. > supports children's Level 6 surgical, intensive care, emergency and child and youth mental health services. > supported by appropriately staffed Level 6 paediatric intensive care service, and equipped for retrieval support 24 hours a day.

Medical Services - Children's	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
<p>Service requirements</p>	<p>As per module overview, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > staff trained in assessment, care and management and delivery of health promotion activities and programs for children and their families in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - growth, development & behavioural stages - nutritional requirements - linking families with appropriate services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, family support and wellbeing - providing advice and referral to relevant services for family wellbeing - supporting families through transition, including facilitating access to programs that build on emotional health, resilience and coping skills. > referral pathway must exist to provide access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - hearing assessment services - children's specialty services for advice / referral - maternal, child health, development and neonatal services for infants up to 28 days of age - allied health supports, which may be adult allied health teams with links to higher level of service for children's specific requirements - adult mental health services, child and youth mental health service (CYMHS), and drug and alcohol services. 	<p>As per Level 1, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > no planned admissions of children; however, children may be admitted short-term for acute health and/or protection concerns (e.g. rehydration, tonsillitis, otitis media) using relevant management protocols (e.g. health management protocols). > may be admitted awaiting transfer or retrieval. > may provide medical ambulatory clinics with visiting clinician groups / individuals (e.g. Royal Flying Doctor Service). 	<p>As per Level 2, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > members of multidisciplinary team suitably qualified and experienced in general paediatric principles and practice. > access—during business hours—to mental health services for consultation and/or liaison. > no children admitted to general intensive care beds, except for stabilisation prior to transfer. > may provide some visiting specialist outreach ambulatory services. 	<p>As per Level 3, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > multidisciplinary team approach used in care / treatment of children including community-based multidisciplinary team. > access to well-established community child developmental health services. > documented processes between ambulatory and inpatient children's medical service teams. > clear links to Level 5 and Level 6 children's medical services for both clinical and educational support and referral. > paediatric support for emergency departments where emergency department located on-site. > access to Child and Youth Mental Health Services for consultation and/or liaison. > clear governance by facility to allow clinical leaders to develop and implement workplace policies and guidelines specific to children. > clear transition guidelines to adult services for both ambulatory and inpatient services. > lung function services as per modules A-C in the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) guidelines, Accreditation of Paediatric Respiratory Function Assessment Services. 	<p>As per Level 4, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > multidisciplinary team members experienced, and have advanced knowledge and skills in delivery of children's services pertaining to specialty / subspecialty area (e.g. children's surgical service). > well-developed, dedicated, child development specialist service. > designated close observation care area / beds managed by paediatric specialists—these may be in children's inpatient unit or general intensive care unit. > dedicated consultation-liaison child psychiatry service available with dedicated child and youth mental health beds. > dedicated clinical intake officer for child development services during business hours. > designated children's-specific day-stay treatment area. > well-developed Hospital in the Home service. > lung function services as per modules A-I in TSANZ Guidelines, Accreditation of Paediatric Respiratory Function Assessment Services. 	<p>As per Level 5, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > multidisciplinary team members have demonstrated experience, and advanced knowledge and skills, in children's services pertaining to specific specialty and/or subspecialty area/s. > adolescent-based ambulatory service with defined transition to adult service. > designated adolescent inpatient service with appropriately trained and experienced nursing staff. > children's pain-management service. > links with all other children's services, ensuring care is provided locally in coordinated manner. > links with Level 6 neonatal services, in particular, maternal foetal medicine services. > psychiatric emergency service with access to registered medical specialist with credentials in child and adolescent psychiatry accessible 24 hours for consultation. > leading and coordinating well-defined children's telehealth service. > statewide telephone support for relevant specialties 24 hours. > statewide approach to outreach and coordination of care provided by each specialty service, where relevant.

Medical Services - Children's	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
<p>Service requirements <i>(continued)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > use of paediatric physiological observational and severity tool such as Children's Early Warning Tool. > telehealth for clinical and educational purposes. 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > access to child protection advisor who provides child protection-specific consultation and liaison. > children at certain ages may be admitted to a Level 4 or 5 children's intensive care service. > may provide non-invasive ventilation care. > may provide a Hospital in the Home service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > well-developed children's ambulatory service, which may be provided in stand-alone environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > specialty support for all Level 6 neonatal services and maternal foetal medicine units. > leadership role in development and implementation of statewide clinical guidelines for children. > active involvement in national and international benchmarking. > links with other national services. > may be nationally funded centre providing care for funded patients from interstate or overseas.

Medical Services - Children's	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Workforce requirements	<p>As per module overview, plus:</p> <p>Nursing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > staffing levels in accordance with the relevant industrial instruments. > access to registered nurses and/or registered midwives or nurse practitioner. <p>Allied Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > access to allied health services either local, visiting or via telehealth. <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > links and/or contact with child protection liaison officer with clear processes for child protection referral outlined. 	<p>As per Level 1, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > healthcare practitioners include, but not limited to, medical practitioners, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, registered midwives and lactation consultants, enrolled nurses, allied health professionals, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers. > minimum one staff member on-site each shift trained in advanced life support. <p>Medical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > medical practitioner available 24 hours. <p>Nursing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > staffing levels in accordance with the relevant industrial instruments. > access—24 hours—to suitably qualified and experienced registered nurse or nurse practitioner. <p>Allied Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > access to allied health professionals, as required. 	<p>As per Level 2, plus:</p> <p>Medical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > medical practitioner available 24 hours <p>Nursing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > staffing levels in accordance with the relevant industrial instruments. > suitably qualified and experienced registered nurse in charge of each shift. > other suitably qualified and experienced nursing staff appropriate to service being provided <p>Allied Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > access to allied health professionals (including dietitians, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, psychologists, speech pathologists or social workers), as required. 	<p>As per Level 3, plus:</p> <p>Medical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > designated registered medical specialist with credentials in paediatrics as lead clinician responsible for clinical governance of children's medical services. > access—24 hours—to registered medical specialist with credentials in paediatrics. > medical practitioner dedicated to paediatrics (however titled) on-site during business hours and accessible after hours. <p>Nursing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > staffing levels in accordance with the relevant industrial instruments. > suitably qualified and experienced nurse manager (however titled). > all registered nurses working within service trained in paediatric life support. > other suitably qualified and experienced nursing staff appropriate to service being provided > access to lactation consultation <p>Allied Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > well-developed, multidisciplinary, allied health team approach to managing care, with some allied health professionals holding children-specific qualifications and/or experience. > access to allied health professionals with relevant qualifications and experience in children's service delivery (including but not limited to, dietician, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, speech pathologist and social worker). <p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > access to biomedical support for equipment maintenance. 	<p>As per Level 4, plus:</p> <p>Medical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > registered medical specialists with credentials for specialty paediatrics (e.g. paediatric rehabilitation, child protection, child development). > dedicated medical practitioners (registrar / senior house officer) on-site 24 hours. > dedicated child development registered medical specialist with credentials in paediatrics supports ambulatory child development service. <p>Nursing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > staffing levels in accordance with the relevant industrial instruments. <p>Allied Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Extended hours access to Physiotherapy and Social Work, and other disciplines where indicated for specialist patient groups 	<p>As per Level 5, plus:</p> <p>Medical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > lead clinician responsible for clinical governance of medical services with qualifications in paediatrics. > lead clinicians in all specialty units. > senior registrar with significant role in junior staff management and leadership. > accessible service provided 24 hours for all specialties where clinically relevant. <p>Nursing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > staffing levels in accordance with the relevant industrial instruments. > suitably qualified and experienced nursing leader/s (however titled). > all specialties have designated children's specialist nurse (however titled). > suitably qualified and experienced designated nurse manager (however titled) all service units.

Medical Services - Children's	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Specific risk considerations	> Nil					

Support services requirements for children's medical services	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4		Level 5		Level 6	
	On-site	Accessible										
Children's anaesthetic					3		4		5		6	
Children's intensive care						4		4	4		6	
Children's surgical								4	5		6	
Medical imaging				2	3		4		4		5	
Mental health (child & youth)		4		4		4		4		4	5	
Neonatal		1		2		3		4	5		6	
Nuclear medicine									4		5	
Pharmacy		1	2		3		4		5		6	
Pathology		1		2		3		4	5		5	

Legislation, regulations and legislative standards	Non-mandatory standards, guidelines, benchmarks, policies and frameworks (not exhaustive & hyperlinks current at date of release of CSCF)
Refer to the Fundamentals of the Framework and Children's Services - Preamble for details.	In addition to what is outlined in the Fundamentals of the Framework and Children's Services - Preamble , the following are relevant to children's medical services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Australian College of Midwives. National Midwifery Guidelines for Consultation and Referral, 2nd ed. ACM; 2008. > Children's Hospitals Australasia. Charter on the Rights of Children and Young People in Healthcare Services in Australia. www.awch.org.au > South Australian Government. Charter of Rights for Children and Young People in Care. www.gcyp.sa.gov.au > The Royal Australasian College of Physicians. Standards for the Care of Children and Adolescents in Health Services. Sydney: RACP; 2008. www.awch.org.au/pdfs/Standards_Care_Of_Children_And_Adolescents.pdf > Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand. Accreditation of Paediatric Respiratory Function Assessment Services. TSANZ; 2006.

Reference List:

1. Australian Confederation of Paediatric & Child Health Nurses. Competencies for Specialist Paediatric and Child Health Nurses. www.chnwa.org.au

For more information

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