



UP ALL NIGHT: AN AUDIT OF OVER-NIGHT ONCALL PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICES IN QUEENSLAND



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Background:

Information about oncall physiotherapy services in Australian hospitals is needed to guide staff training and administration of services.

Objective:

To describe oncall physiotherapy services delivered in hospital settings.

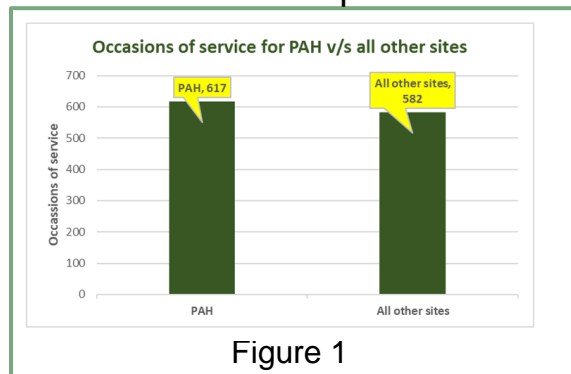
Methods:

A prospective audit of oncall services was conducted in 11 Queensland hospitals for six months in 2021. Information collected included the location and timing of care provided, patient demographics, therapies delivered and staff experience levels.

Results:

Volume of work:

In total 949 service events, 477 patients. Large variation across sites. Most attendances at Princess Alexandra Hospital (Figure 1).



Staff experience level 69% HP3



Figure 2: Patient characteristics

Demographics	% of total
Age mean (SD)	56 (23)
Male	66%
Emergent admission	87%
Neuro condition	39%
Natural airway	77%
Located outside of ICU	59%

Figure 3: Therapy delivery frequency

Therapy	Frequency
Percussion/vibs	76%
Education (staff)	60%
Upright position	45%
Suction	45%
Breathing exercises	44%
Cough – Directed	38%
Cough – Assisted	14%
Physio-led NIV	12%

Conclusion:

Queensland physiotherapists should focus training on respiratory management of patients with neurological conditions and a natural airway. Access to physiotherapy overnight services in Queensland ward staffing guidelines is warranted.