

Children’s Therapy Network of Manitoba Priority Ratings: Occupational Therapy

Priority Level	Ideal Time frame	Presenting Concerns/Diagnosis
1	Within 2 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Feeding concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Failure to thrive; weight loss → High risk infants pre or post discharge (initial contact may clarify priority rating) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Premature; with recommendation from hospital clinician to see on a priority basis → Transfer assessment and environmental accessibility in relation to acute/urgent medical needs/interventions or pending hospital discharge.
2	4-6 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Children referred for feeding difficulties which are sensory motor in nature → Children with diagnosed developmental concerns, i.e., referrals from Newborn/Neonatal Follow Up Clinic, HSC – Child Health (Children’s Hospital), St. Boniface Hospital, Child Development Clinic or pediatricians. → Children less than two years of age with developmental concerns. → Children with suspected developmental or genetic disorders → Hospital discharge plans with hospital discharge date within next 6 months requiring home accessibility assessment and/or lifts and transfers assessment. → Safety concerns – the child is at risk of injury to self or others (e.g., biting, hitting, running away, extreme head banging)
3	6-12 weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Preschool children age two and older who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ are in a transitional period (i.e. beginning nursery school, day care or school transition) and require therapy input to ensure optimal functioning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NOTE: Children for whom school entry is imminent should be pulled forward to Priority 2 ○ demonstrate emerging skills that can be fostered with immediate intervention (i.e. preschool screen referrals). → Clients transitioning to adult program within the upcoming year (17 years of age or older). → Clients with progression of chronic illnesses or non-acute injuries requiring home and/or vehicle accessibility assessment and/or lifts and transfers assessment.
4	3 months +	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Age five and older with neurodevelopmental concerns → Non-urgent home needs for school aged children. → Self-regulation/therapeutic group (e.g., fine motor skills, social skills, “How does your engine run”) referrals will be placed in an age/developmentally appropriate level group as space allows in order of receipt of referral. → Preschool age children requiring planning and assessment of future home and vehicle accessibility needs



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Notes:

1. Therapist's clinical judgement may impact the Priority Level assigned, shifting a referral into a category other than where it would fall based solely on the above criteria.
2. It may not be possible to meet the "Ideal Time Frame" due to various factors, e.g., staffing, referral rates, etc.
3. The Priority Rating is best suited for preschool or out-patient school-age services. Criteria for school-based services will be addressed at another time.