

JOB DESCRIPTION & RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

RECOMMENDED BY: Medical, Scientific and Welfare Committee

**POST TITLE: Senior County Gaelic Football / Hurling Team
Physiotherapist**

ROLE AND PURPOSE OF POSITION:

- To provide physiotherapy services to the senior gaelic football/ hurling team.
- To deliver best practice sports medicine services in partnership with the team doctor.
- To liaise and work with the other designated physiotherapists, medical fitness and coaching staff on all physiotherapy related issues within the county GAA organisation.

REPORTING RELATIONSHIPS:

Operational: Team Doctor
County Management Team (designated person)

Functional: County Administrator/Secretary
Chief County Board Medical Officer (Doctor)

KEY QUALITIES:

Essential: Degree in physiotherapy (BSc)
Member of ISCP (Irish Society of Chartered Physiotherapy)
Good communication skills
The ability to work well within a team environment
Good organisation skills

Significant experience working in Sports Medicine

Desirable: 5 years post registration experience in sports medicine
Higher qualification in sports physiotherapy or sports science
More than 1 years' experience working as team physiotherapist to an underage county team.
Computer competence to the level of ECDL.

Responsibilities:

- To work with the senior county team doctor in the treatment and monitoring of senior county player injuries.
- To provide or to organise all aspects of physiotherapy care for the senior county panel players.
- Attend team training and matches. Be punctual at a prearranged time.
- Be contactable and available to give treatment at times suitable to you and the player.
- Be contactable to organise and coordinate the treatment of senior team players with other designated physiotherapists.
- Ensure that there is a cross-cover arrangement in place for all absences, utilising the existing county physiotherapy personnel.

Confidentiality:

It is essential that the privacy of the player is protected as much as possible.

Communication:

- A clear agreed message from the medical team is essential.
- Report to the relevant team doctor and on all matters relating to players' injuries and progress.

- Complete a post match injury report (written or verbal), in conjunction with the senior county team doctor, and communicate this with the designated member of the county management team.
- Liaise with designated medical or management representatives from all teams regarding the progress and ongoing treatment of their players.
- Report any deviations from the agreed 'injury treatment protocol' (see attached) to the designated member of the management team, County Administrator/Secretary and Chief County Board Medical Officer (Doctor).

Record Keeping:

- Keep accurate and clear notes on all treatments or advice given to a player, as per standard medical practice.
- All notes should be made on the day of the consultation.
- Complete brief reports (written or verbal) for coaching staff in preparation for panel training days.
- Assist with the local development and integration of the proposed Injury
- Tracking/Monitoring system and ensure that the injury data is kept up to date.

Prehabilitation/Rehabilitation:

- Co-ordinate injury pre-habilitation and rehabilitation programmes of county senior players.
- Work closely with other specialists and the county team fitness advisor especially in the pre-habilitation and injury rehabilitation of players.

Education:

- Be proactively involved in player education in consultation with relevant team Doctor and Fitness Staff on injury prevention, treatment and management.

- In conjunction with the senior county team doctor ensure that all players and management are fully informed and agree with the 'injury treatment protocol'.

Musculo-skeletal Screening:

- Complete musculo-skeletal screening for all contracted players at the start of the season and subsequently implement individual pre-habilitation programmes as required.
- End of season screening should be completed where necessary.

Supplies and Equipment:

- Order supplies and equipment.
- Keep accurate information on associated costs and forward details of costs on a regular basis to the County Administrator/Secretary and Chief County Board Medical Officer (Doctor).

Continuous Professional Education:

- Be trained and updated in acute pitch side care, including spinal injury.
- Keep up to date on recent research in sports medicine and Gaelic Games related physiotherapy issues.
- Maintain and update your knowledge and practice of sports medicine, by participation in ISCP post graduate education or other recognised education programme.

Ethical Issues:

- Specific ethical issues arise in the context of team care:

- Early return to competition following injury
- Confidentiality with other players, team management, the general public and media.

NB: The principal responsibility of the team physiotherapist is to provide for the well being of individual team members enabling each to realise his/her full potential.

Medical Indemnity:

- Any Chartered Physiotherapist undertaking the physiotherapy cover of a team should check with that they have appropriate medical indemnity cover.
- It is essential to inform your medical indemnifier every time you travel outside the Republic of Ireland with a team. This includes travelling to Northern Ireland. The cover given is then limited to treatment and advise given to all management and panel members only.
- Travel to the USA, Canada and Australia is covered by specific regulations.

Performance Measures:

- Develop and implement injury prevention protocols.
- Maintain satisfactory continued education in the practice of sports physiotherapy.
- Excellence in communication within the county medical, management and coaching groups.
- Ensure that the proposed Injury Monitoring database is kept up to date.