



HYDROTHERAPY POOL EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

- At each session one person should be designated the 'session lead' for the purposes of an emergency evacuation.
- At each session there should always be at least one extra person (staff member or parent/carer) who is not responsible for a child. This person could be in the water or preferably on the poolside.
- For all hydrotherapy sessions a mat should be laid on the poolside for the duration of the session in case the child needs to be evacuated from the pool in an emergency.
- If a child with known epilepsy has an epileptic seizure follow their individual protocol. If a child with no known epilepsy has an epileptic seizure in the water a decision must be made whether they can be kept safe in the water for the duration of the seizure or whether they need to be evacuated.
 - o If evacuated from the pool, the normal procedures for evacuation described below should be followed.
- If a child or adult is taken ill while in the water and needs medical attention, the following procedure should be followed:
 - o The leader instructs the extra person to summon help by ringing Vranch House using the numbers provided by the phone or ringing 9 - 999 or 112 for emergency services – then inform Vranch House nursing staff that you have done so. If nursing staff are not available contact VH reception or therapy office.
 - o If the child is small enough to be lifted from the pool onto the poolside a mat should be placed in position to receive them. It may require one or 2 people to accomplish lifting the child onto the poolside in the horizontal position. The child should be covered in an emergency foil blanket to keep them warm unless CPR is required in which case this should be started immediately and continued until more expert help arrives and takes over.
 - o If the ill person is an adult or a child >20kg, the rescue board should be used and dipped vertically down and under the patient, using two people) The head pieces may be required to make the patient's head position safe. The strap at the head end is taken by one person and with another pushing, the rescue board is taken up the access slope and pulled onto dry land.
 - o An alternative to using the rescue board is to use the bed-hoist. The leader instructs the extra person to use the bed-hoist from the cubicle to the pool to lower it into the pool. The ill person is positioned on the bed and hoisted out of the pool.

Kate Moss, Chief Executive