

Paediatric Orthopaedic Triage Service (POTS) - Patient Information

1) Why is this better than waiting to see an orthopaedic surgeon?

The aim of the new service will be to get you seen quickly by an expert paediatric healthcare professional, who will be able to provide assessment and treatment options for your tamariki (child). Anyone who has experienced a long wait while being concerned about their tamariki's condition will understand how important it is to be seen in a timely manner.

By providing a paediatric orthopaedic assessment service earlier we can give you advice to manage your tamariki's condition. The majority of tamariki with normal variants do not require surgery. By providing your whānau and tamariki with a comprehensive 60-minute appointment there will be plenty of time for you to discuss your concerns. This also allows time for in-depth education and advice and, if needed, treatment for your tamariki.

2) How long will my tamariki have to wait for a first appointment?

We are aiming for tamariki to be seen within four weeks of receiving their referral.

3) Why is my tamariki being referred to this service?

We are making the system quicker and more efficient for whānau and their tamariki, reducing the length of time for a first appointment as well as offering intervention at this initial appointment. This means that the appropriate advice, education and treatment - which is targeted specifically to each tamariki's needs - can begin sooner and without additional trips to the hospital for further appointments.

4) Is this just a way of preventing my tamariki from seeing an orthopaedic surgeon?

POTS is part of the BOPDHB orthopaedic services. It is a specialist service run by expert paediatric physiotherapists alongside orthopaedic surgeons. If your tamariki's condition does require surgical intervention the paediatric physiotherapist will consult with the orthopaedic surgeon and surgery will be prioritised appropriately.

5) Do these clinics work?

National and international reviews of similar clinics show appropriate diagnosis and management of tamariki and positive whānau and orthopaedic surgeon experiences.

6) Is this just a cost saving measure?

No, the aim of POTS is to provide a comprehensive service which will improve tamariki's healthcare journey.

7) They're just physios how would they be able to accurately say whether I need surgery or not?

All of the physiotherapists who will see your tamariki for their appointments have extensive experience in assessing, diagnosing and managing postural variant conditions in paediatric patients.