

Physiotherapy Research Priority Project 2010 Prioritised research topics – Neurology

The prioritisation process

60 Expert Panel members were appointed.

Round 1

- 45 panel members responded - response rate 75%
- 174 topics were suggested
- Topics were categorised into 23 themes

Round 2

- 39 panel members responded – response rate 65%
- 76 topics were prioritised to go through to Round 3

Round 3

- 35 panel members responded – response rate 58%
- 43 topics were prioritised.

Topics in rank order

1 st	What is best practice in the rehabilitation of the upper limb in patients with stroke with respect to timing, content and dosage?	Theme A
2 nd	Dose response studies – how do intensity, frequency and duration of physiotherapy interventions relate to outcomes for different stages of stroke recovery and for other neurological conditions?	Theme L
3 rd	What is the role, content and effectiveness of self-management strategies in long term neurological conditions?	Theme I
4 th	What are the benefits of stroke rehabilitation on function and quality of life in the longer term	Theme A
5 th	Is self-practice of repetitive, high intensity, task-specific activities beneficial to the motor recovery of patients with stroke?	Theme A
6 th	Specific therapy interventions in the community setting for the continuing support of people with long term neurological conditions	Theme F
7 th	What are the benefits of aerobic exercise for people with long term neurological conditions, and what are effective service delivery models?	Theme K
8 th	Effectiveness of exercise and fitness programmes for stroke survivors, including the long term benefits on function, quality of life and subsequent stroke prevention	Theme K
9 th	The efficacy of therapy interventions for patients early after stroke onset	Theme A

10 th	Cost effectiveness of service delivery models to increase the intensity of therapy in stroke units	Theme N
11 th	The role of assistive technologies in the restoration of motor function in people with neurological conditions	Theme J
12 th	The development of appropriate service delivery models for use in long term	Theme N
13 th	Demonstrating the value of physiotherapy interventions in maintaining mobility for patients with Multiple Sclerosis	Theme B
14 th	What role should physiotherapy play in the management of people with long-term neurological conditions?	Theme G
15 th	Stroke rehabilitation for residents of care homes	Theme A
16 th	Investigation of the efficacy of physiotherapy for patients with different types of ataxia	Theme D
17 th	Promotion of physical fitness and activity for children and young adults with Cerebral Palsy and Neurodisability	Theme E
18 th	Implementing intensive repetitive practice for patients with stroke	Theme N
19 th	Contracture management: How should physiotherapists treat and advise patients with neurological conditions to prevent or reduce contracture development that impedes functional recovery	Theme H
20 th	What is the optimal frequency and timing of physiotherapy interventions for children with cerebral palsy?	Theme E
21 st	What is the impact and cost-effectiveness of post-stroke rehabilitation for the long term stroke survivor?	Theme L
22 nd	What are the components and necessary timing of effective complex postural management for patients with severe neurological impairment, such as late stage multiple sclerosis or severe traumatic brain injury?	Theme H
23 rd	Establishing an effective at-home exercise programme, focusing on improving balance, for patients with progressive ataxia	Theme D
24 th	What role do physical interventions play in combination with botulinum toxin in the management of spasticity in patients following central neurological damage?	Theme G
25 th	Access to physical activity and fitness activities for people with long term neurological conditions	Theme K
26 th	The effectiveness of modern therapy adjuncts e.g. functional electrical stimulation, Seabo Flex, constraint induced therapy	Theme J
27 th	The recovery profile of patients with spinal cord injury	Theme C
28 th	Efficacy of cardiovascular fitness and energy expenditure markers in the initial rehabilitation and in the long term management of patients with spinal cord injury	Theme C
29 th	Improving adherence of patients with Multiple Sclerosis in remaining physically active following a physiotherapy intervention	Theme B
30 th	Effectiveness of self-management programmes for patients with stroke	Theme I
31 st	Can physiotherapy reduce falls in patients with Parkinsons Disease?	Theme F
32 nd	Exploring the best strategies for motor relearning in patients with	Theme F

	cognitive or language deficits	
33 rd	Self-management in cerebral palsy: at the time of transition to adult services, would education in self management of physical problems associated with cerebral palsy improve the quality of life and socio-economic independence of young adults with cerebral palsy?	Theme P
34 th	The optimum level of physiotherapy for children and young people with neurological conditions	Theme L
35 th	The effect of intermittent rehabilitation over a long-term period on patients' function and participation in society	Theme L
36 th	How can physiotherapists help to improve adherence to physical activity programmes developed for patients with neurological conditions in the community?	Theme K
37 th	Potential prognostic indicators for therapeutic interventions for patients with stroke	Theme M
38 th	The effects and experiences of physical activity interventions for non-ambulatory patients with stroke or other long-term neurological conditions	Theme K
39 th	Effectiveness of long-term stroke support services for stroke survivors and their carers	Theme N
40 th	An evaluation of exercises and exercise devices for patients with progressive ataxia using wheelchairs	Theme D
41 st	Effectiveness of gait rehabilitation for patients with stroke	Theme A
42 nd	Demonstrating the value of physiotherapy for patients with Multiple Sclerosis following a relapse	Theme B
43 rd	Falls management in people with long term neurological conditions, especially with stroke and Multiple Sclerosis	Theme R

Key: Themes of prioritised topics

- Theme A: Effectiveness of physiotherapy management: post stroke
- Theme B: Effectiveness of physiotherapy management: multiple sclerosis (MS)
- Theme C: Effectiveness of physiotherapy management: spinal cord injury (SCI)
- Theme D: Effectiveness of physiotherapy management: ataxia
- Theme E: Effectiveness of physiotherapy management: paediatric neurological conditions
- Theme F: Effectiveness of physiotherapy management: other neurological conditions
- Theme G: Effectiveness of specific interventions
- Theme H: Effectiveness of specific interventions: postural
- Theme I: Effectiveness of specific interventions: self management
- Theme J: Effectiveness of specific interventions: adjuncts/ equipment/ assistive technologies
- Theme K: Exercise/physical activity
- Theme L: Parameters of intervention
- Theme M: Tailored treatment
- Theme N: Service provision: post stroke
- Theme P: Transition from paediatric to adult services
- Theme R: Guidelines/policy: development, implementation and impact

No topics from the following themes were included in the final list of prioritised topics:

Theme O: Service provision: other neurological conditions

Theme Q: Outcome measures

Theme S: Patient centred research/practice

Theme T: Education / Continuing professional development

Theme U: The physiotherapist's clinical role

Theme V: Physiological mechanisms

Theme W: Profiling and linguistics in neurorehabilitation

Note: Where similar topics were combined, wording was amended to encompass the content of all the combined topics.

Some topics had minor edits to improve clarity, otherwise the wording of the topic is as originally suggested by expert panel members.

There may therefore be some inconsistency in language and terminology.