

# Long-term neurological conditions: management at the interface between neurology, rehabilitation and palliative care

## Concise guidelines

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Some 10 million people in the UK are living with a neurological condition which has a significant impact on their lives, and they make up 19% of hospital admissions. These guidelines build on the Quality Requirements in the National Service Framework for Long-term (Neurological) Conditions (LTNCs) to explore the interaction between specialist neurology, rehabilitation and palliative care services, and how they may best work together to provide long-term support for people with LTNCs and the family members who care for them. The guidelines also provide practical advice for clinicians when caring for someone with an LTNC, as well as outlining indications for specialist referral.

### Main recommendations

The guidelines recommend a collaborative model for interaction between the different specialties involved in the care of people with LTNCs.

### Training

A key step in implementing these guidelines is improved training. Key skills that every physician should have are listed, as well as a set of higher level skills that will be required by physicians specialising in this area.

### Tools for implementation

A set of tools to support implementation of the guidelines is offered. They include a checklist to guide clinicians when a patient with an LTNC is admitted to a general hospital, as well as a series of care pathways to guide management of specific symptoms including management of bladder and bowels, pain, breathlessness and nausea and vomiting.

### Audience

These concise guidelines are intended to inform doctors and healthcare professionals involved in the long-term support, rehabilitation and palliative care of people in the later stages of LTNCs. In many instances the guidance will also be useful for providers and purchasers of neurology, rehabilitation and palliative care services and other healthcare professionals including nurses and general practitioners.

**This guideline is number 10 in the Concise Guidance to Good Practice series – a series of evidence-based guidelines for clinical management.**

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