

Advanced Assessment and Management of Hypertonia and Spasticity (including Botulinum Toxin Injection)*

- **University Certificate in Postgraduate Professional Development**
- **Enrolment:** September
- **Length:** 1 year
- **Admissions enquiries:** 01642 384176 / sohscadmissions@tees.ac.uk

This award consists of two master's level modules for nurses and allied health professionals who wish to develop advanced skills and knowledge in management of spasticity and hypertonia. Credits from these modules can be used towards the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice.

What you study

This award consists of two master's level modules for nurses and allied health professionals who wish to develop advanced skills and knowledge in management of spasticity and hypertonia. Credits from these modules can be used towards the MSc Advanced Clinical Practice.

The Holistic Management of Hypertonia and Spasticity module develops advanced skills and knowledge in the holistic assessment and management of hypertonia. It enables you to consolidate, and expand your practical and clinical reasoning skills.

The Use of Botulinum Toxin in the Management of Spasticity module develops your specialist skills and knowledge required to use intramuscular injections of botulinum toxin for the management of spasticity.

Term 1: The Holistic Management of Hypertonia and Spasticity (20 credits)

Term 2/3: The Use of Botulinum Toxin in the Management of Spasticity (20 credits)

Entry onto module two requires successful completion of module one and a letter of support from a medical clinical mentor (a consultant or other specialist doctor) who routinely provides intramuscular injections of botulinum toxin for spasticity within a neurological rehabilitation setting.

Where you study

Walkergate Park Centre for Neurological Rehabilitation and Neuro-Psychiatry (Northumberland Tyne & Wear NHS Trust) and Teesside University sites.

How you learn

Holistic Management of Hypertonia and Spasticity requires attendance of two face-to-face teaching blocks, each lasting three days. Key concepts are introduced, and group discussion/ problem-solving is used as a strategy to develop critical reflection, critical understanding and integration and synthesis with practice. Self-directed study activities take place before, in between and after the study blocks to integrate theory and practice.

The Use of Botulinum Toxin in the Management of Spasticity module is delivered via a combination of three study days and a six month period of mentored clinical practice supervised and supported by a Medical Clinical Mentor. It is the responsibility of the student to identify the Medical Clinical Mentor, who is required to be a consultant or specialist doctor routinely providing intramuscular injections of botulinum toxin for spasticity within a neurological rehabilitation setting, and is able to provide support during a six month period of mentored clinical practice. A signed declaration from the Medical Clinical Mentor must be received by the module team four weeks prior to the first study day.

How you are assessed

Holistic Management of Hypertonia and Spasticity (20 credits) requires completion of a 4000-word essay based on an individual case study taken from practice. The use of Botulinum Toxin in the Management of Spasticity (20 credits) requires submission of a portfolio of evidence and completion of a 2500-word written assignment.

Professional placement

Involves a six month period of mentored clinical practice comprising of a minimum of 80 hours, of which at least 60% must comprise of patient contact within a spasticity service. A minimum of 10 supervised intramuscular botulinum toxin must be administered during this time.

Career opportunities

Successful students will be equipped with the skills to administer intramuscular botulinum toxin injections for spasticity within the scope of their working practice.

Entry requirements

Health professionals interested in applying for these modules would normally have a minimum of two years' experience in neurological rehabilitation and be currently working within a service for clients with neurological dysfunction, spasticity and hypertonia.

Entry onto module two requires successful completion of module one and receipt of a declaration of support from line managers, and a medical clinical mentor (a consultant or other specialist doctor) who routinely provides intramuscular injections of botulinum toxin for spasticity within a neurological rehabilitation setting. The declaration of support must be received four weeks in advance of commencing the module.