

SIG Clinical Pathways

1. The WFNR and its special interest groups (SIGs)

The World Federation for NeuroRehabilitation (WFNR) (<http://www.wfnr.co.uk>) is a multidisciplinary non-profit organisation open to any professional with an interest in neurological rehabilitation. The organisation exists to act as a forum of communication between those with an interest in the subject. The WFNR runs world congresses in neurological rehabilitation that are held every two to three years.

The WFNR has formed special interest groups. It has various special interest groups (SIG) in subjects ranging from mild brain injury to telerehabilitation. One of these is the SIG Clinical Pathways.

2. Clinical pathways

A clinical pathway is a multidisciplinary management tool based on evidence-based practice for a specific group of patients, in which the different interventions by the professionals involved in the patient care are defined, optimized and sequenced; outcomes are tied to specific interventions.

An evidence-based clinical pathway in neurorehabilitation provides recommendations for a clinical situation across various possible therapeutic options. It not only makes suggestions regarding a singular aspect, but put the various therapeutic aspects into perspective. It is based on a systematic review of the pertaining literature including clinical trials and systematic reviews.

A clinical pathway and its content of summarized evidence serve a representative function: It is meant to collate the relevant evidence for a specific neurorehabilitation topic systematically and thereby to describe an objective state of the art.

In addition to this representative function, the pathway and its content serve also an argumentative function: the relevant knowledge for clinical decision making is made transparent by means of critical appraisal and judgment of the available body of evidence.

3. Mission and goals of the SIG Clinical Pathways

The SIG Clinical Pathways is not focussing on a specific topic in neurorehabilitation, but acts as a group with cross-sectional interest in neurorehabilitation therapy.

A major intention of the SIG Clinical Pathways is to alert to clinical evidence that is relevant for clinical decision making in neurorehabilitation. This activity might facilitate the individual rehabilitation professional's ability to receive up to date information. Thereby, a close link between currently available clinical therapeutic evidence and clinical practice can be supported. The information provided can be used by individual rehabilitation providers for their own clinical pathway developments that need to take specific circumstances of a given rehabilitation service into account.

In addition, the SIG Clinical Pathways can engage in the development of clinical pathways as a research activity. These pathways would formulate evidence-based therapeutic approaches in more general terms that could further be adapted to the specific circumstances of a given rehabilitation service by its users.

4. Group activities

Information that will be provided to the community will be reviewed by and/or discussed among SIG members using a web-based platform throughout the year and/or at SIG meetings.

5. Dissemination activities

Dissemination options include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Preparing and presenting courses, for example, at the World Congress, contingent upon approval of the program committee.
- (b) Publishing articles in the WFNR newsletter.
- (c) Especially, provision of information about new therapeutic evidence and commentaries on a web-based platform.

5.1. <http://www.clinical-pathways.org>

The SIG web site intends to act as a platform for the free-of-charge distribution of up to date information on evidence in neurorehabilitation.

Both abstracts of recent (randomised controlled) clinical trials and systematic reviews and commentaries are made available to the interested rehabilitation community throughout the world. This is done by internet presentation and an email-based news service.

6. Organizational structure

Chair, secretary and vice-chair, members

Responsibilities of the chair

- (a) With input from the SIG, develop a mission and goals, devise an action plan and make assignments to meet the goals for the year.
- (b) Prepare an agenda and conduct SIG meeting at the world congress with the secretary taking minutes. Circulate attendance sheet to collect names and addresses of interested members and send minutes, project timelines and assignments to SIG members.
- (c) Attending Management Committee or general SIG meetings when possible

Criteria for members

- (a) WFNR member in good standing or may have non WFNR member with special interest in the SIG activities for a period of 3 years before membership required, non-member would be required to pay any SIG dues or fees.
- (b) Knowledgeable about and interested in working on the SIG. Understand and agree to the necessary commitment of time and activity for SIG projects that may be assigned.
- (c) Approval of membership by SIG Chair.

7. Meetings

- (a) The SIG meets at each World Congress.
- (b) Interim meetings may take place as needed.

for the SIG Clinical Pathways

Prof. Dr. Thomas Platz (Chair SIG Clinical Pathways) Greifswald, 17.03.2017
Dr. Mayowa Owolabi (Secretary and Vice Chair SIG Clinical Pathways)