

ICONS: Identifying Continence Options after Stroke

Introduction

A collaboration between Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the Clinical Practice Research Unit at the University of Central Lancashire, the Universities of Bangor, Edge Hill, Glasgow, Glasgow Caledonian, Leeds and Newcastle upon Tyne have been awarded a prestigious National Institute of Health Research Programme Grant (£1.2 million). The programme will have a dedicated Patient, Public and Carer Involvement (PPC) Group and we would like to invite expressions of interest from stroke survivors and carers in the North West Region to participate in this group.

Participation in the PPC Group will involve advising on all aspects of the research programme, for example appropriate ways of involving patients, ways of introducing the intervention and preparing and delivering an education programme for patients and health professionals. PPC Group members will be paid £35.60 per hour for education activities and £10 per hour for all other activities, as well as travel expenses.

The programme will begin in October 2008 and will end in March 2012.

Background

Urinary incontinence following acute stroke is common, affecting between 40%-60% of people admitted to hospital after a stroke. Urinary incontinence is distressing for those affected and their carers, is related to poor outcome and is currently poorly managed in the majority of cases (National Sentinel Audit for Stroke 2007).

Research programme

Our research programme aims to develop and test an intervention comprising a systematic voiding programme (including bladder training for patients who are cognitively able and prompted voiding for patients with cognitive impairments) in patients with urinary incontinence post-stroke.

The programme will include:

- A developmental phase, including a review of the literature and a qualitative component to find out patients' and health professionals' views of the proposed intervention
- An exploratory randomised controlled trial (involving twelve stroke services) to test the intervention for preliminary evidence of effect

If you would like further information, or would like to discuss any aspect of the study, please do not hesitate to contact:

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