



SPECIALISED REHABILITATION LAY ADVISORY PANEL

Information Sheet

What is the Directorate of Specialised Rehabilitation?

Specialised Rehabilitation is based over two sites at the Northern General Hospital; 'The Princess Royal Spinal Injuries Centre' and the 'Mobility & Specialised Rehabilitation Centre (M&SRC)'. Patients from around the country use these Specialised Rehabilitation services.

The Princess Royal Spinal Injuries Centre is the second largest Spinal Injuries Centre in the UK housing 3 wards (Osborn1-3). The services focus on acute admissions, rehabilitation and re-admission.

M&SRC provides a variety of services to help patients with limited mobility and to enable them achieve maximum independence. These include amputee rehabilitation and prosthetic services, wheelchair and special seating services, orthotics, functional electrical stimulation (FES) and gait analysis services.

The Directorate continually review and develop these services and combine high quality patient-focused research with clinical care.

What is the purpose of the Lay Advisory Panel?

The main purpose of the Lay Advisory Panel is to ensure that research and services carried out within the Directorate are patient focused.

Who can become a member of the Panel?

Members of the Panel need to meet one or more of the following criteria:

Have knowledge / experience of:

- spinal cord injury services
- amputee rehabilitation or prosthetic limb services
- orthotic services
- wheelchair or special seating services
- gait services
- functional electrical stimulation services
- Are a carer or relative of a patient requiring specialised rehabilitation
- Have previously participated or are currently participating in a research study.

If I became a Panel member what would I have to do?

As a Panel member you would be expected to take part in discussions at Panel meetings to ensure that patient and carer priorities are reflected in Directorate research studies and service development. You may also be involved in:



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- helping to develop patient information literature
- advising on the recruitment of research participants into clinical trials
- advising on ways of sharing research results
- representing the lay public at research meetings
- reviewing current services
- advising on service development

How often would I be expected to attend?

Panel meetings are held once every three months (quarterly), with communication by email and/or telephone in-between meetings if necessary. You may, if you wish, occasionally be involved in other meetings within the hospital or elsewhere.

Do I need any qualifications?

You do not need any formal qualifications to become a Panel member, although experience of serving on a committee or links with patient networks would be an advantage. You will be given induction training as well as ongoing training and support. If required, you may have a mentor who may be a member of staff or an experienced Panel member.

Why do it?

People decide to get involved in service development and research for a variety of reasons for example:

- You may have personal knowledge and experience which you would like the Directorate to take into account.
- You may want a chance to give something back and help influence service development and research to benefit others.
- You may like the opportunity to develop personal skills or to help to bring about improvements in healthcare.

What would I get out of it?

People who have been involved in research have described many positive benefits of getting involved which include: learning about research and the topic being researched, developing a broader understanding of why research matters, developing practical skills, the satisfaction of making a contribution and helping to improve services.

Who do I contact for further information?

If you would like further information about the Lay Advisory Panel, please contact Debby Hawkins by e-mail (debby.hawkins@sth.nhs.uk), phone (0114 3052249).