

Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management 2017

Administrative Report

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1. Background

The Stroke Foundation has been developing stroke guidelines since 2002. The existing *Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management 2010* were approved by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in September 2010.

In order for the Australian Government to ensure up-to-date, best practice clinical advice is provided and maintained to healthcare professionals, the NHMRC requires clinical guidelines be kept current and relevant by reviewing and updating them at least every 5 years. As a result, the Stroke Foundation was contracted by the Australian Government Department of Health to update the Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management, commencing July 2015.

This Administrative report details the information required by the NHMRC in accordance with the requirements of the *NHMRC Standards for developing clinical practice guidelines 2011*.

2. Governance

The Stroke Foundation is responsible for development and publication of the *Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management 2017*.

The Clinical Guidelines are solely funded by the Australian Government, specifically the Department of Health. The amount funded was \$660,000.

A representative from the Department of Health sits on the Guidelines Advisory Committee (GAC), which is a governance committee. No Department of Health representative sits on the Content Development Working Group (CDWG), which is the group responsible for the content of the Clinical Guidelines. This ensures editorial independence from the Department of Health.

The following were involved in the development of the Clinical Guidelines.

2.1. Guidelines Advisory Committee

(See Appendix 1).

The Guidelines Advisory Committee (GAC) was chaired by Professor Richard Lindley.

The role of the GAC was to:

- › Oversee the process of the development of the Clinical Guidelines;
- › As necessary, provide general guidance on this process to the Stroke Foundation over the course of the project;
- › Provide comments on progress reports about the project and respond to any queries or issues raised by the project's CDWG and/or the Stroke Foundation; and
- › Provide comments and information with regards to the development of the Clinical Guidelines for consideration by the project's CWG and/or the Stroke Foundation.

2.2. Content Development Working Group and Working Parties

(See Appendix 2).

The Stroke Foundation called for Expression of Interest (EOI) for healthcare professionals to be involved in the development of the Clinical Guidelines. Requests for EOI were sent to all stroke care related professional organisations. The EOI was also advertised on the Stroke Foundation's website and in our healthcare professional newsletter. The criteria for selection was:

- › Good working relationship with their professional organisation,
- › Extensive networks of peers to seek input as needed,
- › Strong clinical expertise/experience with a very good practical knowledge of current practice,
- › Detailed knowledge of research design and critical appraisal of evidence,
- › Familiarity with systematic reviews and development of clinical guidelines, and
- › Willingness and ability to commit to the necessary time commitment of this project (over an 18–24 month period).

Applications in writing were assessed against the selection criteria by members of the Stroke Foundation Project Team and approved by the Stroke Foundation Clinical Council.

The CDWG was Co-Chaired by Associate Professor Bruce Campbell and Associate Professor Coralie English.

The CDWG and associated Working Parties were responsible for:

- › Reviewing the framework of the existing guidelines;
- › Determining the clinical questions for the guideline update;
- › Identifying, reviewing and classifying relevant literature;
- › Extracting data from the literature and inputting that information into the guideline development platform (MAGICapp);
- › Developing the draft Clinical Guidelines;
- › Evaluating and responding to feedback from the consultation process; and
- › Developing a plan for communication, dissemination and implementation.

2.3. Stroke Foundation Guidelines Project Team

The Project Team (PT) oversaw all operational and technical matters for the development of the Clinical Guidelines. The PT included the following people:

- › Leah Wright, National Coordinator Guidelines (Project manager);
- › Kelvin Hill/Justine Watkins, National Manager Clinical Services;
- › Cindy Peng, Guidelines project officer;
- › Marius Mather, Guidelines project officer; and
- › Toni Aslett, Executive Director Stroke Services.

2.4. Information Specialist

The Information Specialist, Anne Parkhill from Aptly, was an external consultant who undertook all literature searching for the 89 clinical questions.

3. Managing conflicts of interest

The Clinical Guidelines were managed in accordance with the Stroke Foundation Conflict of Interest Policy, which is based on the *NHMRC Identifying and Managing Conflicts of Interest of Prospective Members and Members of NHMRC Committees and Working Groups Developing Guidelines* documents.

All members of the CDWG and GAC disclosed potential conflicts of interest (COI) prior to their involvement in the Clinical Guidelines. CDWG members were asked to update their COI declarations in August 2016 and again in May 2017. These declarations were summarised and provided to the CDWG Co-chairs for review.

Prior to all meetings, CDWG and GAC members were asked to declare any additional potential COI. During discussions about the recommendations, CDWG members expressly stated their potential COI (if present) to ensure all discussions were transparent.

A copy of the COI Policy and summary of COI declarations is published with the Clinical Guidelines on [InformMe](#).

4. Consumer involvement

The CDWG had two consumer representatives, a stroke survivor and a carer of a stroke survivor. Both individuals self-nominated after Expressions of Interest were sought from the Stroke Foundation Consumer Council. The GAC also had a consumer representative, who was nominated by the Consumer Health Forum following direct contact from the Stroke Foundation.

The consumer representatives on the CDWG were involved throughout the guideline development process. They:

- › Reviewed and provided feedback on the clinical questions;
- › Reviewed the evidence associated with patient preferences and values, which was used to inform the Clinical Guidelines recommendations;

- › Provided feedback during both internal reviews; and
- › Attended two face-to-face meetings, and in the most recent of these their patient advocacy resulted in changes to the strength of draft recommendations.

The Clinical Guidelines project manager actively communicated throughout the guideline development process with both CDWG consumers using telephone and email to ensure their understanding of the process and to confirm that their expectations were being met.

The Stroke Foundation Consumer Council was also engaged throughout the process and was asked to provide feedback on the Clinical Guidelines.

5. Potential endorsing organisations

A number of organisations were approached to endorse the Clinical Guidelines. A summary of organisations who have formally endorsed the Clinical Guidelines is published with the Clinical Guidelines on [InformMe](#).

6. Practice Statements and Practice Points

The Clinical Guidelines have a number of Practice Statements (Consensus-based recommendations) and Practice Points.

For some topics, a systematic review of the available evidence was conducted, but there was either a lack of evidence or insufficient quality of evidence on which to base a recommendation. In cases where the CDWG determined that recommendations were important, statements and advice about topics were developed based on consensus and expert opinion (guided by any underlying or indirect evidence). These statements

were labelled as 'Practice statements', and correspond to the 'consensus-based recommendations' outlined in the NHMRC procedures and requirements. These statements should be regarded with greater discretion by users.

For topics outside the search strategy (i.e. where no systematic literature search was conducted), additional considerations are provided. These are labelled 'Info Box' and correspond to 'practice points' outlined in the NHMRC procedures and requirements.

Final decisions about Practice Statements (consensus-based recommendations) and Practice Points were made using informal group processes after open discussion facilitated by the Co-chairs. If there was divergent opinion with respect to Practice Statements (consensus-based recommendations) and Practice Points, they were not included in the Clinical Guidelines.

7. Independent review using the AGREE II instrument

Two independent reviewers undertook a review of the draft Clinical Guidelines using the AGREE II instrument (the new (2010) international tool to assess the quality and reporting of practice guidelines). The draft Clinical Guidelines scored high on the AGREE II instrument and no significant issues were identified.

8. Public consultation

The Stroke Foundation conducted the public consultation process in accordance with Section 14A of the *Commonwealth National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992* and accompanying regulations.

The 'Notice of public consultation' was advertised publicly on the three Stroke Foundation websites – www.strokefoundation.com.au; www.informme.org.au and www.enableme.org.au from 29 September to 31 October 2016. Electronic communications were also sent on 30 September 2016 to all organisations identified by

the NHMRC as being mandatory to consult with, advising of the public consultation period (see *Appendix 3*). Electronic communications were also sent to all professional and consumer organisations and individuals that had been involved with guideline consultations in the past.

The public consultation period was conducted from 1–30 November 2016. PDFs of the draft Clinical Guidelines were posted on the InformMe website, as well as links to the draft Clinical Guidelines on MAGICapp, and a survey feedback form was also made available on the website. Feedback was only accepted if it was provided via the survey feedback form. Electronic communications were sent to the above identified audience with a link to the website as well.

The Stroke Foundation received 54 responses from individuals and organisations.

The majority (80%) of responses were from clinicians currently working in stroke care (n=43), with the remainder being researchers, stroke survivors, pharmaceutical and medical technology industry members, a patient advocacy group, and other healthcare related organisations.

In terms of respondents' professions, allied health was the most common (n=31), followed by medical (n=5) and nursing (n=5).

The majority of written feedback related to:

- › Interpretation of evidence,
- › Inclusion of more practical information and decision support tools to assist implementation of recommendations,
- › Suggestions to reference to other guidelines and resources to complement the existing content,
- › Identification of errors such as typos and missing citations, and
- › Acknowledgement of the comprehensiveness and innovation in using GRADE methodology and the MAGICapp platform.

Although the number of responses was low relative to previous updates, the detail in some of the feedback was quite complex and required careful analysis and consideration of the issues raised.

Two organisations, the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) and the National Heart Foundation, provided feedback that required significant work and detailed revision of the practical information provided. Only minor changes were made to the actual recommendations.

It is believed that the amount of feedback was low because of the high number of healthcare professionals involved in the development of the Clinical Guidelines.

All feedback was reviewed by the PT and Co-chairs of the CDWG. If the feedback was related to changes in recommendations or interpretation of the evidence, advice from the relevant Working Party Lead was sought. Authors responsible for specific topics were also consulted when further advice was needed. Once all relevant feedback was integrated into the Clinical Guidelines, a final review by the entire CDWG was undertaken and additional changes made where necessary.

All individuals and organisations that provided feedback during the public consultation period were contacted via letter and thanked for their input and advised of the action taken by the CDWG in response to their feedback.

A de-identified copy of the Public Consultation Submissions Summary is available on [InformMe](#). This document summarises the feedback received and the response from the CDWG, including whether any changes were made to the Clinical Guidelines as a result.

Appendix 1: Guidelines Advisory Committee

Prof Richard Lindley (Chair)	Medical Stroke Specialist/Researcher	The University of Sydney
Ms Sharon McGowan	Chief Executive Officer	Stroke Foundation
Dr Suzanne Kuys	Academic Physiotherapist	Stroke Society of Australasia
Prof Mark Harris	Professor of Medicine – General Practice	University of NSW
Prof Alex Brown	Leader, Aboriginal Research Unit	South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute
Ms Eileen Jerga AM	Consumer	Consumers' Health Forum
Ms Sonia Denisenko	Manager, Stroke Clinical Network	Victorian Stroke Clinical Network
Dr Bernie Towler	Principal Medical Adviser – Population Health and Sport Division	Australian Government Department of Health
Mr Kelvin Hill / Ms Justine Watkins	National Manager, Clinical Programs	Stroke Foundation

Appendix 2: Content Development Working Group and Working Parties

Content Development Working Group members listed below, with Working Party Leads in bold.

Content Development Working Group and Working Parties		
Acute Working Party (Neurology, Surgery, Radiology, ED, GP, Ambulance)		
Prof Hugh Grantham	Professor of Paramedics and Emergency Medicine	Flinders University, SA
Mr Lachlan Parker	Paramedic	Queensland Ambulance Service, QLD
Mr Richard Larsen	A/Operations Manager – Patient Safety & Quality	South Australian Ambulance Service, SA
A/Prof Jonathan Knott	Director of Emergency Research and Clinical Sub-Dean for Emergency Medicine	Royal Melbourne Hospital and University of Melbourne, VIC
A/Prof Melinda Truesdale	Emergency Medicine Physician	Royal Melbourne Hospital and University of Melbourne, VIC
Dr Anna Ranta	Neurologist	Capital & Coast District Health Board and University of Otago, NZ
Prof P. Alan Barber	Neurologist (NZ)	Auckland Hospital and University of Auckland, NZ
Dr Andrew Wong	Stroke Physician	Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and University of Queensland, QLD
A/Prof Bruce Campbell (Co-chair)	Neurologist	Royal Melbourne Hospital and University of Melbourne, VIC
Dr Cecilia Cappelen-Smith	Senior Staff Specialist Neurologist	Liverpool Hospital, NSW

Dr Nawaf Yassi	Neurologist	Royal Melbourne Hospital and University of Melbourne, VIC
Dr Philip Choi	Neurologist	Eastern Health and Monash University, VIC
Dr Stacey Jankelowitz	Neurologist	Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Sydney Medical School, NSW
A/Prof Tim Kleinig	Neurologist	Royal Adelaide and Lyell McEwin Hospitals and University of Adelaide, SA
Dr Yash Gawarikar	Consultant Neurologist	Calvary Public Hospital, ACT
Prof Thanh Phan	Neurologist	Monash Health and Monash University, VIC
Dr Lauren Sanders	Neurologist	St Vincent's Hospital and University of Melbourne, VIC
Dr Graeme Gonzales	Neurologist	St Vincent's Hospital, VIC
A/Prof Darshan Ghia	Neurologist	Fiona Stanley Hospital and University of Western Australia, WA
Prof Patricia Desmond	Neuro Radiologist	University of Melbourne and Royal Melbourne Hospital, VIC
Prof Jonathan Golledge	Professor of Vascular Surgery	Queensland Research Centre for Peripheral Vascular Disease, James Cook University and The Townsville Hospital, QLD
Dr Ferdinand Miteff	Neurologist	Hunter New England Health, NSW
Consumers Working Party (incl. Stroke Foundation Consumer Council)		
A/Prof Jennifer Muller	Public Health	Queensland University of Technology, QLD

Ms Julie Collins	Carer of a stroke survivor	Stroke Foundation Consumer Council Representative, VIC
Dietetics Working Party		
Ms Judy Martineau	Dietitian	Uniting Care Health, QLD
Dr Fiona Simpson	Dietitian	Royal North Shore Hospital, NSW
Miss Jennifer Olding	Dietitian	Royal North Shore Hospital, NSW
Ms Jo James	Clinical Dietitian	Flinders Medical Centre, SA
Ms Tiffany Lee	Clinical Dietitian	Flinders Medical Centre, SA
Economics Working Party		
A/Prof Dominique Cadilhac	Head: Translational Public Health and Evaluation Division, Stroke and Ageing Research	Monash University, VIC
Joosup Kim	Researcher	Monash University, VIC
Ms Lauren Sheppard	Research Fellow – Health Economics	Deakin University, VIC
Dr Louise Craig	Physiotherapy	St Vincent's Health Australia and Australian Catholic University, NSW
Nursing Working Party (Acute, Rehab, Community)		
Ms Belinda Ford	Nurse Educator – Neuroscience	Austin Hospital, VIC
Dr Caleb Ferguson	Nursing	University of Technology, NSW
Ms Carol Gore	Stroke Nurse Practitioner	Peninsula Health, VIC
Mr Danny Kinsella	Nursing	Alfred Health, VIC
Dr Janet Bray	Senior Research Fellow – Public Health	Monash University, VIC
Dr Julia Slark	Senior Lecturer – Nursing	University of Auckland, NZ

Ms Kelly Coughlan	Research Assistant	St Vincent's Health Australia and Australian Catholic University, NSW
Ms Liz Mackey	Nursing	Sunshine Hospital, VIC
Ms Michelle Bronca	Clinical Practice Consultant – Stroke	Flinders Medical Centre, SA
Ms Pauline Owens	Nursing	Counties Manukau District Health Board, Auckland, NZ
Prof Sandy Middleton	Nursing Research	St Vincent's Health Australia and Australian Catholic University, NSW
Ms Sarah Kuhle	Clinical Nurse Consultant	Queensland Statewide Stroke Clinical Network, QLD
Ms Simeon Dale	Nursing	St Vincent's Health Australia and Australian Catholic University, NSW
Ms Sandra Lever	Nursing	Ryde Hospital, NSW
Ms Sara Laubscher	Clinical Practice Consultant – TIA Clinic	Flinders Medical Centre, SA
Ms Rosemary Phillips	Research Assistant	St Vincent's Health Australia and Australian Catholic University, NSW
Dr Anoja Wickrama Gunaratne	Research Officer	St Vincent's Health Australia and Australian Catholic University, NSW
Occupational Therapy Working Party		
Dr Annie McCluskey	Honorary Senior Lecturer, Occupational Therapy	The University of Sydney, NSW
Ms Danielle Sansonetti	Occupational Therapist	Alfred Health, VIC
Ms Emma J Schneider	Occupational Therapist	Alfred Health and La Trobe University, VIC
Dr Sally Eames	Occupational Therapy	Metro North Hospital and Health Service and The University of Queensland, QLD

A/Prof Stacey George	Occupational Therapist – Rehabilitation	Flinders University, SA
Dr Kate Laver	NHMRC-ARC Dementia Research Development Fellow	Flinders University, SA
Dr Isobel Hubbard	Occupational Therapy	The University of Newcastle, NSW
Ms Nikki Cousins	Occupational Therapist	Wyong District Hospital, NSW
Physiotherapy Working Party		
Ms Allison Schwarzel	Physiotherapy (Sydney)	Macarthur Health Service – Campbelltown Hospital, NSW
Ms Anna McCrae	Physiotherapy	Auckland District Health Board, NZ
A/Prof Coralie English (Co-Chair)	Physiotherapy	The University of Newcastle, NSW
Dr Dianne Marsden	Physiotherapy (Hunter)	Hunter Stroke Service, Hunter New England Local Health District, NSW
Mr Karl Schurr	Physiotherapy	Self-employed Educator, NSW
Ms Laura King	Physiotherapist	Bankstown Hospital, NSW
Ms Li Khim Kwah	Physiotherapy	University of Technology, NSW
Dr Louise Craig	Physiotherapy	St Vincent’s Health Australia and Australian Catholic University, NSW
Mr Peter Meppem	Physiotherapy	Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service, QLD
Dr Heidi Janssen	Physiotherapist and Researcher	Hunter Medical Research Institute, NSW
A/Prof Prue Morgan	Physiotherapy	Monash University, VIC
Ms Genevieve Hendrey	Physiotherapy	Caulfield Hospital, VIC

Mr Davide de Sousa	Physiotherapy	Graythwaite Rehabilitation Centre, Ryde Hospital, NSW
Ms Nadine Andrew	Physiotherapist and Researcher	Monash University, VIC
Ms Jodie Marquez	Physiotherapy	University of Newcastle, NSW
Ms Elizabeth Lynch	Physiotherapy	Florey Institute of Neurosciences and Mental Health, VIC and University of Adelaide, SA
Dr Julie Luker	Physiotherapy and Post-Doctoral Research Fellow	University of South Australia, SA and Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, VIC
Psychology Working Party		
A/Prof Maree L Hackett	Neurological and mental health	The George Institute for Global Health, NSW
Dr Toby Cumming	Research Fellow	Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, VIC
Rehabilitation Medical Working Party (GP, Rehabilitation specialist, Geriatrician, Pharmacy)		
Prof Mark Nelson	Chair of General Practice	University of Tasmania, TAS
A/Prof Christopher Etherton-Beer	Geriatric Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology	University of Western Australia and Royal Perth Hospital, WA
Dr Carl Hanger	Geriatrician and Stroke Physician	Canterbury District Health Board, Christchurch, NZ
A/Prof Beata Bajorek	Clinical Pharmacy	University of Technology and Royal North Shore Hospital, NSW
Dr Juan Miguel Rois Gnecco	Rehabilitation Medicine Physician	Ipswich Hospital, QLD

A/Prof Steven Faux	Rehabilitation Medicine Physician	St Vincent's Hospital, NSW
Speech Pathology Working Party		
A/Prof Deborah Hersh	Speech Pathologist	Edith Cowan University, WA
Ms Dijana Dragicevich	Speech Pathology	Royal North Shore Hospital, NSW
Dr Emma Power	Speech Pathology	The University of Sydney, NSW
A/Prof Erin Godecke	Speech Pathology	Edith Cowan University, WA
Ms Kylie Wall	Speech Pathology	The University of Queensland, QLD
A/Prof Petrea Cornwell	Speech Pathology	The Prince Charles Hospital and Griffith University, QLD
Ms Annie Dent	Speech Pathology	Nepean Hospital, NSW
Ms Jo Murray	Speech Pathology	Flinders University, SA
Dr Robyn O'Halloran	Speech Pathology	La Trobe University, VIC
A/Prof Natalie Ciccone	Speech Pathology	Edith Cowan University, WA
Other disciplines		
Ms Neryla Jolly	Orthoptics	Orthoptics Australia
Ms Sarah Bates	Social Worker	Flinders Medical Centre, SA
Stroke Foundation staff		
	Ms Leah Wright	Ms Cindy Peng
	Mr Marius Mather	Mr Kelvin Hill
	Ms Justine Watkins	Ms Toni Aslett

Appendix 3: Names of organisations contacted for Public consultation

Organisation	Status	
	Notice period – 30 Sept	Consultation – 31 Oct
The Director-General, Chief Executive or Secretary of each state, territory and Commonwealth health department	✓	✓
Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)	✓	✓
Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)	✓	✓
Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC)	✓	✓
Australian Stroke Coalition		
Stroke Society of Australasia (SSA)	✓	✓
Australasian College for Emergency Medicine	✓	✓
Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine	✓	✓
Australian College of Nursing	✓	✓
Australian Physiotherapy Association	✓	✓
Australian Psychological Society	✓	✓
Council of Ambulance Authorities	✓	✓
Dietitians Association of Australia	✓	✓
Occupational Therapy Australia	✓	✓
Royal Australasian College of Physicians	✓	✓
Speech Pathology Australia	✓	✓
NSW Agency of Clinical Innovation Stroke Network	✓	✓
Northern Territory Stroke Unit Network	✓	✓
South Australian Stroke Department	✓	✓
Queensland Statewide stroke Clinical Network	✓	✓
Victorian Stroke Clinical Network	✓	✓
Stroke Clinical Advisory Group of WA	✓	✓

Other organisations		
Heart Foundation	✓	✓
Diabetes Australia	✓	✓
Kidney Health Australia	✓	✓
NACCHO	✓	✓
Australian Stroke Clinical Registry (AuSCR)	✓	✓
Pharmaceutical organisations (Medtronic; Pfizer; BI; Sanofi; Bayer; Bristol-Meyer; Merck; Covidien; Aspen)	✓	✓
Australian and New Zealand Society for Geriatric Medicine	✓	✓
Continence Foundation of Australia	✓	✓
Palliative Care Australia	✓	✓
Australian Association of Neurologists	✓	✓
Australian Association of Social Workers	✓	✓
Beyond Blue	✓	✓
The Pharmacy guild of Australia	✓	✓
Pharmaceutical Society of Australia	✓	✓
Consumer organisations		
Consumer Health Forum of Australia	✓	✓
Health Care Consumers' Association	✓	✓
Stroke Association of Victoria	✓	✓
Stroke Recovery Association of NSW		✓
Stroke Association of QLD	✓	✓
Stroke SA	✓	✓
Carers Australia	✓	✓
Carers QLD	✓	✓
Carers Victoria	✓	✓
Carers WA	✓	✓
Carers Tas	✓	✓