



EUROPE REGION

World Confederation  
for Physical Therapy

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# **Clinical Guideline Development Programmes in the European Region of WCPT**

**ADOPTED at the  
General Meeting 27-29 May 2010  
Berlin, Germany**

## **CLINICAL GUIDELINE PROGRAMS IN THE EUROPEAN REGION OF WCPT**

### **European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) Professional Issues WG**

#### **Introduction**

Development and implementation of evidence-based clinical guidelines is main focus of policy in health care around the world. Clinical guidelines are 'systematically developed statements designed to help practitioners and patients to make decisions about appropriate health care for specific circumstances' (Field and Lohr, 1992). In physiotherapy clinical guidelines are also considered important instruments. Evidence based practice and clinical guidelines are essential components of the policy of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT).

One of the goals of the European Region of WCPT is to create an up to date overview of guideline programs in physiotherapy within the European Region. To accomplish that goal, the Professional Issues WG of the European Region has collected data on existing physiotherapy-specific and multi-disciplinary guideline programs in the European Region. The project resulted in an overview of guideline programs, existing guidelines, and guidelines under development. This overview also contains up to date information about the Guidelines International Network (G-I-N) and its international guideline library.

This overview will allow individual physiotherapists access to existing guidelines, and will therefore contribute to the implementation of guidelines. The overview will also allow Member Organisations in the European Region to collaborate in guideline development and/or to use and adjust existing guidelines for their own (national) situation.

#### **Method**

The current 2010 database is the third version, after its initial version in 2006 and update in 2008. The network of contacts within the Europe Region was used to create the overview. The A first outline of the update was created by the Professional Issues WG based on available information via websites and sent to contacts which are known for their involvement in physiotherapy-specific guideline development. The contact persons were asked to collaborate in four issues:

1. To advise on refining the outline and structure of the overview (database).
2. To provide data on physiotherapy guideline programs in their country.
3. To provide information about the involvement of Member Organisations in multi-professional guideline development.
4. To help identifying additional guideline programs in the European Region.

### **Results**

Table 1 shows an overview of physiotherapy-specific guideline programs based on an inventory using the network of Member Organisations known to have (plans for) a guideline program. It shows that eight Member Organisations actually have physiotherapy-specific evidence-based guidelines in an own program and/or in collaboration with other guideline developers. Compared to the 2008 database this is an increase of five national guideline programs by Member Organisations (from three to eight). The Nordic countries have established a joint guideline program, for which the plans were described in the 2008 database.

Multi-professional guidelines are common in many countries within the European Region. Table 2 shows that nine Member Organisations of ER-WCPT are involved in multi-professional guideline development. Many of these multi-professional guideline organisations are member of the Guidelines International Network (G-I-N).

### **Guidelines International Network (G-I-N)**

The Guidelines International Network (G-I-N) is an international not-for-profit association of organisations and individuals involved in the development and use of clinical practice guidelines. G-I-N seeks to improve the quality of health care by promoting systematic development of clinical practice guidelines and their application into practice, through supporting international collaboration. ER-WCPT became a member of G-I-N in 2006, and actively participates in its activities. Since November 2009 ER-WCPT is represented in the Board of Trustees of G-I-N.

G-I-N has the world's largest international guideline library. Regularly updated with the latest information of the G-I-N membership it contains more than 7,700 documents (March 2010). The guideline library is accessible for Member Organisations of ER-

WCPT at [www.g-i-n.net](http://www.g-i-n.net). Log-in details can be obtained from ER-WCPT's office ([info@physio-euope.org](mailto:info@physio-euope.org)).

### **Allied Health Community within G-I-N**

In February 2010 G-I-N launched its Allied Health Community. Objective of the community is to further promote and stimulate multidisciplinary collaboration in clinical guidelines, and to further facilitate and increase interactions between medical and allied health professionals. G-I-N's definition of Allied Health is broad and includes clinical healthcare professionals that work in a healthcare team and liaise with physicians to deliver quality patient care and improve the system of care. For the purpose of the community G-I-N aims to include a wide range of allied health professionals in its group: physiotherapists, nurses, midwives, dieticians, psychologists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, etcetera.

To initiate the community G-I-N has formulated four activities to be achieved in 2010/2011:

- To establish a steering group for the Allied Health Community.
- To open a dedicated section on the G-I-N website.
- To provide a toolkit that supports Allied Health Professionals in their participation in guideline activities.
- To develop a white paper that addresses the importance of patient functioning and quality of life within clinical guidelines.

**Table 1: Physiotherapy-specific evidence-based guideline programs**

Member Organisation	Contact person	Email	Description of guideline program	Public access?	Website	#	Published guidelines	Under Development
Chartered Society for Physiotherapy (CSP)	Ralph Hammond	<a href="mailto:hammond@r@csp.org.uk">hammond@r@csp.org.uk</a>	Endorsement of guidelines by committee. Own national guideline program.	Yes*	<a href="http://www.csp.org.uk">www.csp.org.uk</a>	9	Injection therapy Lower Limb Prosthesis Osteoporosis Soft tissue injury Stress Urinary incontinence Shoulder impingement syndrome Whiplash and associated disorder Persistent Back Pain Lower limb amputation	Frozen shoulder
The Association of Danish Physiotherapists (DK)	Annette Winkel	<a href="mailto:awi@fysio.dk">awi@fysio.dk</a>	National guideline program in cooperation with other Nordic Countries	Yes	<a href="http://www.fysio.dk">www.fysio.dk</a>	4	COPD Spondylitis Spondylarthrosis Urinary incontinence	Knee arthrosis Neck pain
Deutscher Verband fuer Physiotherapie Zentralverband der Fysiotherapeuten (ZVK)	Eckhard Boehle	<a href="mailto:boehle@zvz.org">boehle@zvz.org</a>	Physiotherapy-specific guideline in cooperation with Zentrum für Muskeloder	Yes	<a href="http://www.dv-osteologie.org">www.dv-osteologie.org</a>	1	Leitlinie Physiotherapie und Bewegungstherapie bei Osteoporose (Osteoporosis)	
Federation Française de Masseurs Kinesitherapeutes Reeducateurs (FFMRK)	Daniel Paguessorhayé Dominique Mizera	<a href="mailto:d.paguessorhayé@ffmkr.org">d.paguessorhayé@ffmkr.org</a> <a href="mailto:dmizera001@rss.fr">dmizera001@rss.fr</a>	Development of guidelines by HAS in collaboration with Association Française pour la recherche et l'évaluation kinesithérapie	Yes*	<a href="http://www.has-sante.fr">www.has-sante.fr</a>	6	Physiotherapy in common neck pain and whiplash Congenital foot deformity	
Finnish Association of Physiotherapists (FAP)	Camilla Wikström-Grotell Heli Kangas	<a href="mailto:cwg@arcada.fi">cwg@arcada.fi</a> <a href="mailto:heli.kangas@suomenfysioterapeutit.fi">heli.kangas@suomenfysioterapeutit.fi</a>	Started own national guideline program by FAP. Preparation of program in collaboration with other Nordic countries.	Yes	<a href="http://www.suomenfysioterapeutit.fi">www.suomenfysioterapeutit.fi</a>	1	Hip and knee arthrosis	Prevention of falls

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Koninklijk Nederlands Genootschap voor Fysiotherapie (KNGF)	Philip Van der Wees Jan Custers	<a href="mailto:vanderwees@kngf.nl">vanderwees@kngf.nl</a> <a href="mailto:custers@kngf.nl">custers@kngf.nl</a>	National guideline program in collaboration with Maastricht University.	Yes*	<a href="http://www.kngf.nl">www.kngf.nl</a>	17	Ankle injuries Urinary incontinence COPD Low back pain Whiplash Osteoporosis Cardiac Rehabilitation Osteoarthritis hip and knee Claudication Manual therapy and low back pain Parkinson's disease Stroke Asthma in children Meniscectomy Reumatoid Arthritis Pelvic pain	Acute knee injury Neck pain
Norwegian Physiotherapist Association (NPA) <a href="http://www.fysio.no">www.fysio.no</a>	Malene Haneborg Eline Rygh	<a href="mailto:malene.haneborg@fysio.no">malene.haneborg@fysio.no</a> <a href="mailto:er@fysio.no">er@fysio.no</a>	Contributes in national guideline program Nordic cooperation	Yes	<a href="http://www.helsebiblioteket.no/Retningslinjer">www.helsebiblioteket.no/Retningslinjer</a> <a href="http://www.hesledirektoratet.no">www.hesledirektoratet.no</a>	6	Low back pain Palliative Cancer Care Lymphatic cancer Premature babies Diabetes Osteoporosis	COPD Stroke Children and overweight Cancer
Swedish Association of Registered Physiotherapists	Birgit Rösblad Monika Fagevik Olsen	<a href="mailto:birgit.rosblad@lrs.se">birgit.rosblad@lrs.se</a> <a href="mailto:monika.fagevik-olsen@vgregion.se">monika.fagevik-olsen@vgregion.se</a>	Contributes in national guideline program Own national guideline program Nordic cooperation		<a href="http://www.sjukgymnastforbundet.se">www.sjukgymnastforbundet.se</a>	3	Abdominal and thoracic surgery Walking -CP Disc herniation	Spina Bifida

\* Published in English (some or all guidelines)

**Table 2: National multi-professional evidence-based guidelines programs**

Member Organisation (MO)	Contact person	Email	Involved in multi-professional development?	Organisations	Websites	Public access?
Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP)	Ralph Hammond	<a href="mailto:hammond@csp.org.uk">hammond@csp.org.uk</a>	Yes	NICE SIGN RCP	<a href="http://www.nice.org.uk">www.nice.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.sign.ac.uk">www.sign.ac.uk</a> <a href="http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk">www.rcplondon.ac.uk</a>	Yes*
The Association of Danish Physiotherapists (DK)	Annette Winkel	<a href="mailto:awi@fysio.dk">awi@fysio.dk</a>	Yes	National board of health Society of Orthopaedics Society of Neurologists	<a href="http://www.fysio.dk">www.fysio.dk</a>	Yes
Deutscher Verband fuer Physiotherapie Zentralverband der Fysiotherapeuten (ZVK)	Eckhard Boehle	<a href="mailto:boehle@zvkg.org">boehle@zvkg.org</a>	Yes	AQUMed/ AEZQ/ ÄZQ BAEK AWMF Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Rheumatologie Deutsche Krebsgesellschaft Deutsche Gesellschaft für neurologische Rehabilitation Universität Witten/Herdecke Zentrum für Schmerztherapie Deutsche Atemwegsliga Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Pneumologie	<a href="http://www.versorgungsleitlinien.de">www.versorgungsleitlinien.de</a> <a href="http://www.awmf-online.de">www.awmf-online.de</a> <a href="http://www.aezq.de">www.aezq.de</a> <a href="http://www.leitlinien.de">www.leitlinien.de</a> <a href="http://www.rheumanet.org">www.rheumanet.org</a> <a href="http://www.leitlinien.net">www.leitlinien.net</a> <a href="http://www.uni-bielefeld.de">www.uni-bielefeld.de</a> <a href="http://www.atemswegsliga.de">www.atemswegsliga.de</a> <a href="http://www.zvkg.org">www.zvkg.org</a>	Yes

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Federation Française de Masseurs Kinesithérapeutes Reeducateurs (FFMRK)	Daniel Paguessorhaye Dominique Nizera	<a href="mailto:d.paquessorhaye@ffmkr.org">d.paquessorhaye@ffmkr.org</a> <a href="mailto:dnizera001@rss.fr">dnizera001@rss.fr</a>	Yes	HAS	<a href="http://www.has-sante.fr">www.has-sante.fr</a>	Yes*
Finnish Association of Physiotherapists (FAP)	Camilla Wikstrom-Grotell Heli Kangas	<a href="mailto:cwg@arcada.fi">cwg@arcada.fi</a> <a href="mailto:heli.kangas@suomenfysioterapeutit.fi">heli.kangas@suomenfysioterapeutit.fi</a>	Yes	FinOHTA	<a href="http://finohta.stakes.fi">http://finohta.stakes.fi</a> <a href="http://www.kaypahoito.fi">www.kaypahoito.fi</a>	Yes
Koninklijk Nederlands Genootschap voor Fysiotherapie (KNGF)	Philip Van der Wees Jan Custers	<a href="mailto:vanderwees@knkf.nl">vanderwees@knkf.nl</a> <a href="mailto:custers@knkf.nl">custers@knkf.nl</a>	Yes	CBO NHG	<a href="http://www.cbo.nl">www.cbo.nl</a> <a href="http://www.nhg.artsennet.nl">www.nhg.artsennet.nl</a>	Yes
Norwegian Physiotherapist Association (NPA)	Malene Haneborg Eline Rygh	<a href="mailto:malene.haneborg@fysio.no">malene.haneborg@fysio.no</a> <a href="mailto:er@fysio.no">er@fysio.no</a>	Yes	Norwegian Directorate of Health	<a href="http://www.helsedirektoratet.no">www.helsedirektoratet.no</a> <a href="http://www.helsebiblioteket.no">www.helsebiblioteket.no</a>	yes
Physio Austria	Dieter Steiner	<a href="mailto:holl.di@gmx.at">holl.di@gmx.at</a>	Yes			No
Swedish Association of Registered Physiotherapists	Birgit Rösblad Monika Fagevik Olsén	<a href="mailto:birgit.rosblad@lrs.se">birgit.rosblad@lrs.se</a> <a href="mailto:monika.fagevik-olsen@vgregion.se">monika.fagevik-olsen@vgregion.se</a>	Yes	Social Ministry of Health SBU	<a href="http://www.sos.se">www.sos.se</a> <a href="http://www.sbu.se">www.sbu.se</a>	

\* Published in English (some or all guidelines)