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## Vocational Rehabilitation

Survey of BSRM consultants  
January 2007

### QR 6

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- People with long-term neurological conditions are to have access to appropriate vocational **assessment, rehabilitation and on-going support to enable them to find, regain or remain in work** and access other occupational and educational opportunities



## Could BSRM members help?

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- Assess clinical barriers to work in those with illness or injury
- Act as link to other relevant clinicians eg Clinical psychologists, Occupational Health Physicians, Occupational therapists
- Act as link to non-NHS services eg DEA
- Advise and train other clinical staff & non-clinicians eg staff at job centres



## results

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- questionnaires sent to all consultants in BSRM – 226
- 96 returned



## Assess/advise people regarding starting, continuing &/or returning to work

	I do this already	Prepared to do this	Cannot do this
Spinal cord injury	40	37	19
Other neuro	63	18	15
Non-neuro eg amputees	36	21	39

## Acting as link

	I do this already	Prepared to do this	Cannot do this
Refer to other clinicians	88	5	3
Contact DEAs directly	47	39	10

## Act as a source of advice regarding vocational rehabilitation

	I do this already	Prepared to do this	Cannot do this
I do this already	I do this already	62	24
For employers	30	47	19

## Provide teaching

	I do this already	Prepared to do this	Cannot do this
To other clinicians	12	68	16
To non-clinicians	7	63	26
Develop training packages	1	52	43

Interested in participating in multi-centre studies to evaluate interventions to promote job retention or return to work?

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Yes – 78/96



## Comments made

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- Understaffed/ under-resourced
  - Better collaboration between health & other agencies especially DWP staff needed – “I don’t think my reports are ever read”
  - Is there an issue about confidentiality?
  - Some examples of DEAs working v closely with Rehab Physicians
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## Summary

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- ❑ Rehabilitation medicine physicians already actively involved in VR, generally working closely with OTs and clinical psychologists. (far fewer mentions of other health professionals)
- ❑ All but 10 would be prepared to link directly with DEAs and the majority would be prepared to advise job centre staff (72) & employers (77)
- ❑ 70 would be prepared to provide teaching to non-clinical eg job centre staff and 52 would be prepared to develop training packages



## Summary - 2

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- ❑ ...but only 10 are currently providing advice for job centre staff
- ❑ ...and only 7 teach non-clinicians
  
- ❑ Are we an enthusiastic but under-utilised resource?

