

Advice to Purchasers

Setting NHS Contracts for Rehabilitation Medicine - 1993

Abstract

This document describes the role of Rehabilitation Medicine and offers advice to purchasers of NHS rehabilitation services. It is hoped that it will be useful to all health authorities, regardless of their local arrangement and current levels of provision.

Health services for physically disabled adults have traditionally been poor. Their importance is now recognised by their inclusion in the 1994/5 corporate contracts to be submitted to the Management Executive by Regional Health Authorities.

A specialised rehabilitation service is recommended because it results in health gains for both service users and their carers. Further benefits include improvements in co-ordination of services, resource use and liaison with other agencies involved in the rehabilitation process. The target population is mainly people with physical disabilities aged 16 to 64 years, and those of all ages who require specialist advice.

Consultants in Rehabilitation Medicine can only function effectively within a cohesive network of associated services. The major elements of the range are described. Specialised rehabilitation services lead to more timely and accurate assessment of needs and thus to improved outcome in terms of user satisfaction, efficiency of service delivery and effectiveness of treatment. Good NHS rehabilitation services already exist, but development across the country is patchy. Issues of service quality are paramount. A checklist of acceptability criteria is included.

It is hoped that this document will provide a framework to stimulate further developments in and improvements to rehabilitation services.

End of Abstract
