

# A Neuromuscular Disorders Service

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**BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT** Neuromuscular conditions are an important cause of disability in adults but have had less specific input from Rehabilitation Medicine compared with upper motor neurone conditions. The service was started in 2001

## SERVICE DESCRIPTION

**Staffing:** A Rehabilitation Medicine Consultant working with a Muscular Dystrophy Campaign Care Advisor, the neurological physiotherapy service and Neurological Rehabilitation and Review Team

**Workload:** 1.5 clinics per month and home visits

**Funding:** No specific NHS funding, but the clinic provides an organised focus that provides a service for this group of patients. The Care Advisor is funded by the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign, and covers the Trent region

**Clinic services:** Screening for known complications of neuromuscular disease according to condition, e.g. cardiac, respiratory and dysphagia screening; education regarding condition; optimising mobility and physical activity; advice regarding work and education. Joint clinics held with respiratory physicians and with Young Adults' Team

**Catchment:** Southern Derbyshire and East Staffordshire (pop. >600 k)

## Evaluation & Innovation

People with a wide range of conditions are served by the clinic. The most frequent conditions covered are myotonic dystrophy, facioscapulo-humeral dystrophy and Charcot Marie Tooth disease, some of the least frequent are spinobulbar muscular atrophy and acid maltase deficiency.

Evaluation has shown that patients do not always feel well enough informed about some aspects of their condition such as somnolence and gastrointestinal symptoms. We are therefore intending to use a more consistent approach in giving information and copying letters to patients.

We are grateful to the Muscular Dystrophy Campaign  
for supporting this service