



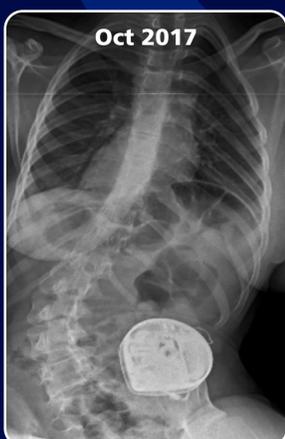
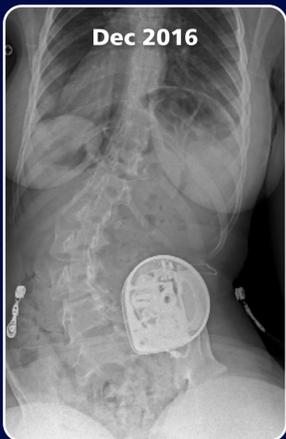
Postural Care Pathway in the Learning Disability Service

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Managing Posture



What Can Go Wrong



1 What is postural care?

- Evidence shows that changes in body symmetry can result in poor physical health, breathing difficulties, eating and drinking complications and can lead to premature death^{1,2,4}
- Postural care is a method of addressing an individual's posture over a 24hr care cycle using specialist equipment
- Equipment includes: static seating, wheelchairs, standing frames, mobility aids, sleep systems, shower chairs, orthotics and moving and handling equipment.

Effective postural care can

- Reduce body shape distortion⁴
- Reduce hospital admissions and need for surgical interventions⁴
- Reduce care costs⁴
- Maximise function and improve quality of life⁴

2 Learning from the Evidence

- CIPOLD 2 revealed the link between a failure to protect body shape and resultant premature death
- The government response to CIPOLD recommended that clinical commissioning groups should ensure they commission expert, preventative services, including proactive postural care support³
- The cost of poor postural care: 1 day of pressure sore management as an inpatient = up to £374 with airflow mattress cost up to £3600³

3 Postural Care Pathway

- Knowledge and skills within the Learning Disability Physiotherapy Team is evidence based
- Assessment tools are standardised and holistic
- Clear expectations on what the patients journey should be
- Interaction between parents, health and social care services and 3rd sector stakeholders is more fluid with clear expectations on service delivery and patient centred care
- Training and support for carers to maximise equipment use and to highlight risk
- Greater understanding of range specialist equipment reducing inequity of provision.

When we get it right

- Standardised assessment will lead to better clinical reasoning
- Provision of equipment will be timely
- Robust guidance / training will ensure correct use of equipment

4 Feedback from Carers and Stakeholders

- "I cannot believe the change in her life; she is happier, put on weight and we have not had repeated hospital admissions" Unit Manager
- "I have worked in the caring profession for over 20 years and I cannot believe the level of assessment, equipment, guidance and training that has been provided - exceptional" Care Home Manager
- "You do not understand the impact you have had on my son's life, why was this co-ordinated care not available previously" Parent
- "Can you see the rest of the service users in our building as they require the same level of support as well, and I cannot believe the difference you have made" Care Home Manager.

5 Links to SPFT strategies

- SPFT Clinical Strategy:
- Implement new care pathways for people with a learning disability
- Postural Care sits under the umbrella of the Complex Physical Health pathway and menu of care.

AHP Strategy

We will:

- Collect and analyse data to map AHP resource and determine future AHP workforce requirements to support delivery of clinical strategy
- Utilise patient reported outcome measures and evidence the impact of the AHP contribution
- Reduce unwarranted variation in AHP clinical practice.

6 Next steps

- Postural care pathway to be ratified by SPFT
- Stakeholder events to improve the provision of equipment
- Working with local partners to improve postural care delivery in Sussex and to promote a culture of spend to save through reduced duplication and timely and cost effective interventions
- Implement clinical outcome measures
- Building evidence based data to promote greater understanding of need and risk and improve resource allocation.

When we get it wrong

- Postural deformity can develop quickly
- It can be insidious
- The above images are from a 17 year old female
- She had 5 consultants and 3 therapist
- Care co-ordination was poor
- The damage is irreversible
- This will be life shortening

References:

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