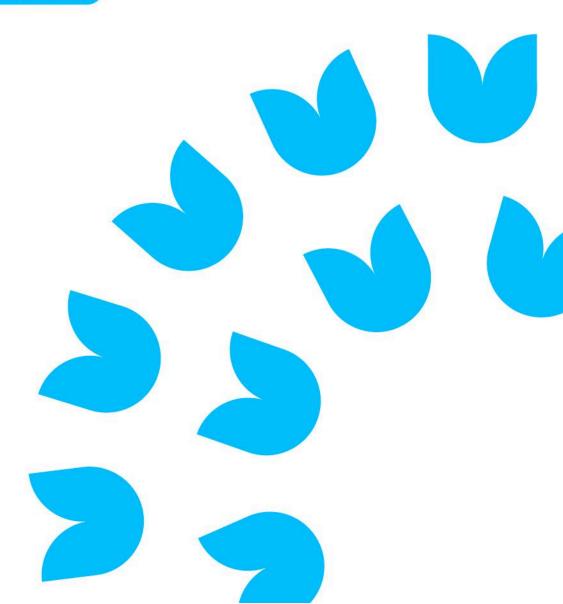


2025 UK Parkinson's Audit

Physiotherapy

Guidance document



2025 UK Parkinson's Audit

Physiotherapy

Audit of national standards relating to Parkinson's care, incorporating the Parkinson's NICE guideline,¹ NICE quality standards² and other relevant evidence-based guidelines.

Aim

The aim of the physiotherapy audit is to establish if physiotherapy services are providing quality services for people with Parkinson's, taking into account recommendations made in evidence-based guidelines.

Objectives

- To encourage physiotherapists to audit compliance of their local Parkinson's service against Parkinson's guidelines, by providing a simple peer reviewed audit tool with the facility for central data analysis to allow benchmarking with other services.
- 2. To identify areas of good practice and areas for improvement to inform local, regional and UK-wide discussions leading to action plans and quality improvement initiatives to improve quality of care.
- 3. To establish baseline audit data to allow:
 - UK-wide mapping of variations in quality of care
 - local and UK-wide mapping of progress in service provision and patient care through participation in future audit cycles

Background

The Parkinson's physiotherapy audit is part of the UK Parkinson's Audit coordinated by Parkinson's UK and led by a steering group of professionals.

¹ National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence. *Parkinson's Disease in Adults NG71.* (2017) Available at <u>https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng71</u>

² Nice Quality Standard QS164 <u>https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs164</u>

This is the seventh round in which physiotherapists will be able to take part, along with occupational therapists and speech and language therapists. Consultants in elderly care and neurology (and their Parkinson's nurses) can participate in the parallel patient management audit and there is a separate audit for inpatient Pharmacy services. The audit questions for this round have been refined to reflect feedback from the 2022 audit.

Standards

The Parkinson's NICE guideline³ recommends:

- Consider referring people who are in the early stages of Parkinson's disease to a physiotherapist with experience of Parkinson's disease for assessment, education and advice, including information about physical activity.
- Offer Parkinson's disease-specific physiotherapy for people who are experiencing balance or motor function problems.
- Consider the Alexander Technique for people with Parkinson's disease who are experiencing balance or motor function problems.

The 2018 NICE Quality Standards⁴ recommend that "Adults with Parkinson's disease are referred to physiotherapy, occupational therapy or speech and language therapy if they have problems with balance, motor function, activities of daily living, communication, swallowing or saliva."

NICE states that the rationale for this is that: "Adults with Parkinson's disease may experience a wide range of symptoms. Physiotherapy... can help people to manage their symptoms, maintain their independence and avoid hospital admission. After a referral to therapy services, it is important to ensure that therapists are included as part of the person's multidisciplinary team." NICE also states that "Adults with Parkinson's disease should have contact with a physiotherapist...with experience of Parkinson's disease to ensure disease-specific care is given."

The European Physiotherapy Guideline for Parkinson's Disease⁵ is an evidence-based

³ National Institute of Health and Care Excellence. *Parkinson's Disease in Adults NG71.* (2017) Available at <u>https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng71</u>

⁴ Quality Statement 3: <u>https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/qs164/chapter/Quality-statement-3-Referral-to-physiotherapy-occupational-therapy-or-speech-and-language-therapy</u>

⁵ Keus S et al. European Physiotherapy Guideline for Parkinson's Disease. (2014) KNGF/ ParkinsonNet, The Netherlands

guideline developed according to international standards, including practice recommendations for physiotherapists.

The National Service Framework for Long Term Neurological Conditions (NSF LTNC)⁶ is a key tool for delivering the government's strategy to support people with long term conditions such as Parkinson's. In particular, aspects of the quality requirements 1, 4, 5 and 7 have been highlighted as important when considering the needs of people with long term conditions.

Methodology

This audit is open to all physiotherapy services and individual physiotherapists that work with people with Parkinson's in the UK, whether hospital or community based, clinic or domiciliary service (excluding acute hospital inpatients). Physiotherapists working in the private sector are welcome to take part.

Standards agreed to be pertinent to physiotherapy have been transformed into a set of audit standards and statements reviewed by specialist physiotherapists. The full list of questions is given in Table 1 (Service audit) and Table 2 (Patient audit) at the end of this document.

Please note the importance of logging your participation in this national clinical audit with your Audit Department.

Patient sample

The minimum audit sample size is 10 consecutive people with idiopathic Parkinson's referred to a physiotherapy service and seen during the audit data collection period, which runs from 1 May 2025 to 30 September 2025.

Take account of the need to capture this minimum sample when deciding locally on your start date for collecting a consecutive patient sample. The data collection tool will have the capacity to capture as many consecutive patients as therapists

⁶ Department of Health. *National Service Framework for Long Term Neurological Conditions*. (2005) Available at

www.gov.uk/government/publications/quality-standards-for-supporting-people-with-long-term-c onditions

wish to audit.

The inclusion criteria for audited patients are as follows:

- a) Patients who are currently receiving active intervention (including education/counselling) at the start of the audit period.
- b) Those who are seen on a review appointment (irrespective of whether they then go to start another episode of active treatment) during the audit period.
- c) Patients newly referred to your service who undergo full assessment (again irrespective of whether they then proceed to immediate active intervention rather than being placed on review)

Data entry

Data is entered on an on-line tool; the link is available from www.parkinsons.org.uk/audit.

- The **service audit** section consists of general questions about your service (and needs to be completed only once by a member of the team familiar with the service set-up and running).
- The **patient audit** section allows you to enter data on individual patients. These include both newly seen people with Parkinson's and follow ups, but each person should only be documented once, even if they attend more than once during this period.

A printable version of the patient case form that you can use to record data in your clinics is available on the audit web page.

Data entry must be completed by 31 October 2025 when the data will be downloaded for analysis.

'No, but...' answers

A 'No, but...' answer implies there is a pre-determined accepted reason for non-compliance with the standard. The denominator for compliance can then be determined only for those patients where the standard was relevant – ie 'No, but...' answers can be removed from calculations of compliance.

Confidentiality

Patients

Please ensure that any information submitted does not include any personally identifiable information about your patients. Identifiable information is any information you hold about a service user that could identify them. This includes personal details such as names, addresses, pictures, videos or anything else which might identify the service user. Anonymised information is information about a service user that has had all identifiable information removed from it.⁷

When you complete the patient section of the audit, you will see that there is space for a patient identifier. It is suggested that you use code letters or a number here to help you keep track (for example the patient's initials or hospital number) – please do not use NHS numbers. It will help if you keep a list of the code words or numbers securely yourself, so that if there is any query about the information you have submitted, you can track back to the original patient.

Employers

The Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) recommends that services participating in a national clinical audit should be named in the audit reports. The audit reference report will list all participating organisations. It is therefore vital that you inform your clinical audit department about your participation in the audit.

Participating therapists

Individual therapists who participate and submit data will not be named in the audit report.

Data Security

The data collection forms, which will be available online for data entry, will be accessed using a username and password chosen by each user. The password will require a minimum length and complexity according to usual online security methods. Please make sure that your username and password are well protected

and can't be accessed by other people. Colleagues will be able to collect and

⁷Health Professionals Council. Available at <u>https://www.hcpc-uk.org/registration/meeting-our-standards/guidance-on-confidentiality</u>

enter data for the audit, and you will be able to be able to view entries made by colleagues in your local team. We ask that you comply with your organisation's Data Protection guidelines at all times.

After the data has been accessed by Parkinson's UK it will be stored in password-protected files at Parkinson's UK in accordance with NHS requirements. Within Parkinson's UK, access to the raw data set is restricted to the Clinical Audit Manager, members of the Clinical Steering Group and the Data Analyst who will carry out the data analysis

Raw data will not be accessible in the public domain.

Patient Reported Experience Measure

All services participating in the audit are encouraged to participate in the Patient Reported Experience Measure (PREM). The PREM takes the form of a short paper questionnaire to be distributed to up to 50 consecutive patients between 1 May and 30 September 2025. These patients do not necessarily have to be those included in the main clinical audit.

The questionnaire asks 9 questions about patients' views of their Parkinson's service, and should take only five to 10 minutes to complete. If a carer has accompanied the patient on their clinic visit, they may assist the patient in completion of the form. Patients should feel comfortable and not overlooked while completing their questionnaire.

No identifiable information is collected, and the patient will seal their completed questionnaire in the envelope provided. These envelopes will then need to be collected before the patient leaves the clinic, and all the envelopes will then be returned to the audit team at Parkinson's UK in the large postage-paid envelope provided.

Each service will be provided with the following resources:

- 50 x copies of a paper questionnaire
- 50 x patient information leaflets
- 50 x sealable envelopes
- A large postage-paid envelope for return of sealed envelopes to the audit team

A minimum of 10 questionnaires will need to be returned for a service's data to be included in the data analysis. Services from different specialties who work as part of one multidisciplinary team and see the same cohort of patients can combine their PREM forms - just enter all of the appropriate service numbers on each form.

Participating in the PREM will give individual services direct feedback from their service users about the quality of care, accessibility and general satisfaction.

How the audit results will be communicated

The findings of both the clinical audit and the PREM will be presented in the form of a UK-wide summary report and an individual report for each service, benchmarking the results of individual services against the national average for each audit question in their specialty.

The summary report will contain detailed analysis and comments on the data along with key recommendations for commissioners and clinicians. The full data tables will also be available, along with a list of participating services.

A link to the reports will be sent to all audit participants, trust audit contacts and strategic health authority/health board audit contacts. The UK-wide reports will also be in the public domain via the Parkinson's UK website. Individual Service Reports are only accessible within the relevant Trust.

How the data will be used

Data collected during the audit will be used to generate a national picture of service delivery and to compare this with the expectations detailed in national guidance. This data will provide valuable information about priority areas within the existing healthcare provision and will support the development of commissioning. Information generated through this collaboration will be used in campaigning on behalf of people with Parkinson's, as well as guide the development of UK-wide quality improvement initiatives.

Parkinson's UK Excellence Network

The Parkinson's UK Excellence Network brings together health and social care professionals to transform the care that people with Parkinson's receive across

the UK. The Network is there to ensure:

- that everyone with Parkinson's has access to high quality Parkinson's services that meet their needs. Their care should be delivered by an expert, integrated, multi-disciplinary team including a consultant, specialist nurse and range of therapists, whose involvement is key to maximising function and maintaining independence
- there are clear pathways to timely, appropriate information, treatments and services from the point of diagnosis, including access to specialist mental health services, and Parkinson's UK's full range of <u>information and support</u> to allow people to take control of the condition
- services will be involved in continuous quality improvement through audit and engagement of service users in improvement projects.

Thank you for your participation in the 2025 UK Parkinson's Audit

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Parkinson's UK is the operating name of the Parkinson's Disease Society of the United Kingdom. A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales (948776). Registered office: 50 Broadway, London SW1H 0DB. A charity registered in England and Wales (258197) and in Scotland (SC037554)

Physiotherapy - Service Audit

No.	Question	Data items/ Answer options	Help notes
Your	details		
1.1	Name of Lead Therapist completing the Service Audit	Free text	
1.2	Contact email of Lead Therapist completing the Service Audit	Free text	
Serv	ice Description		
2.1	Describe the setting in which you usually see individuals with Parkinson's	 Integrated medical and therapy Parkinson's clinic Outpatient rehabilitation in acute services Community rehabilitation service Social services including reablement Individual's home Other (please specify) 	Choose one - the most common setting for the service
2.2	How does your service offer assessments?	 In person Virtually - by video Virtually - by telephone 	Tick all that apply
2.3	Does your service specialise in the treatment of individuals with Parkinson's?	YesNo	

Indiv	viduals with Parkinson's		
3.1	Approximately what percentage of the individuals referred to your service annually have a diagnosis of Parkinson's?	 0-19% 20-39% 40-59% 60-79% 80-100% 	
Phys	siotherapy professionals		
4.1	Within your service, can you access Parkinson's related continuing professional development (at least yearly)?	YesNo	Training includes in-service within the Trust/similar body/Board/Local Health Board or external courses
4.1a	If yes, have you accessed Parkinson's-related continuing professional development in the last 18 months?	YesNo	
4.2	Are there any documented induction and support strategies for new physiotherapists working with individuals with Parkinson's?	 Yes, specifically in relation to patients with Parkinson's Yes, as part of more general competencies No 	
4.3	What support (e.g. education, advice) is available to individual therapists working in the service?	 The individual therapist is a member of a Parkinson's specialist MDT and can consult other members of that MDT They can consult members of a general neurology/elderly care specialist service of which they are a member They do not work directly in Parkinson's clinics but can readily access a 	Choose one

		 Parkinson's MDT/Parkinson's Nurse Specialist They do not work directly in a specialist clinic but can readily access advice from a specialist neurology or elderly care MDT No support available 	
Clini	cal Practice		
5.1	How does your service offer assessment of a patient with Parkinson's?	 MDT assessment Physiotherapy assessment only Other (please specify) 	Tick all that apply
5.2	How do you usually see your clients with Parkinson's?	 Individually In a group setting Both individually and in groups In either a group or individual setting, but can refer to the other 	
5.2	Do you provide information about non-NHS/external services e.g. Parkinson's UK, leisure centre classes?	YesNo	
5.3	Do you use any digital technology within your service?	YesNot available locally, but would like toNo	
5.3a	If yes, do you use any of the following:	 Kinetograph Fitbit or other activity monitor PKG Other (please state) 	

Physiotherapy - patient audit

No.	Question	Answer options	Help notes
1. De	mographics	•	
1.1	Patient identifier		Used locally to identify audited patients
1.2	Gender	 Male Female Other/patient prefers not to say 	
1.3	Ethnicity	 White British Irish Gypsy or Irish Traveller Roma Any other White background Asian/Asian British Bangladeshi Chinese Indian Pakistani Any other Asian background Black/Black British/Caribbean/African African any other Black background 	

		 Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups Asian and White Black African and White Black Caribbean and White Any other Mixed/Multiple background Other ethnic group Arab Any other ethnic group Prefer not to say
1.4	Year of birth	
1.5	What setting does this client live in?	 Own home Residential care home Nursing home Other (please specify)
1.6	In what health setting was the patient seen?	 NHS - outpatient NHS - community Private clinic At home Other (please specify)
1.7	How was this person assessed?	 In person Virtually - by video Virtually - by telephone

1.8	Parkinson's phase	Diagnosis	Definitions of phases:
1.0	Furkinson's phuse	Diagnosis Maintangnas	
		Maintenance	Diagnosis
		Complex	From first recognition of symptoms/sign/problem
		Palliative	Diagnosis not established or accepted.
			Maintenance
			 Established diagnosis of Parkinson's
			Reconciled to diagnosis
			 No drugs or medication 4 or less doses/day
			 Stable medication for >3/12
			 Absence of postural instability.
			Complex
			 Drugs – 5 or more doses/day
			 Any infusion therapy (apomorphine or duodopa)
			Dyskinesia
			 Neuro-surgery considered / DBS in situ
			 Psychiatric manifestations >mild symptoms of
			depression/anxiety/hallucinations/psychosis
			Autonomic problems - hypotension either drug or
			non-drug induced
			 Unstable co-morbidities
			 Frequent changes to medication (<3/12)
			Significant dysphagia or aspiration (for this audit,
			dysphagia should be considered a prompt for
			considering end of life issues
			Palliative
			 Inability to tolerate adequate dopaminergic therapy
			 Unsuitable for surgery
			 Advanced co-morbidity (life threatening or disabling).

2. Referral

Standard A: Consider referring people who are in the early stages of Parkinson's disease to a physiotherapist with experience of Parkinson's disease for assessment, education and advice, including information about physical activity. (NICE NG711.7.2)

2.1	Year of Parkinson's		
	diagnosis		
2.2	Has the person received previous physiotherapy specifically for Parkinson's?	 Yes No (go to Q3) Offered but declined (go to Q3) Unknown (go to Q3) 	Has the person with Parkinson's had physiotherapy specifically for Parkinson's before the current referral?
2.2a	If yes, what was the year of first referral?	(year or unknown)	
2.3	When the person was first referred to any physiotherapy service, at what stage of their Parkinson's were they?	 Diagnosis Maintenance Complex Palliative Unknown 	
3. Ref	ferral to this episode		
3.1	Who made the referral to physiotherapy for the current episode of care?	 Elderly care consultant Neurologist Parkinson's nurse specialist General/non-PDNS nurse GP Allied health professional colleague (OT/SLT) Dietician 	

		 Social care worker Self-referral/relative Other (please specify) Unknown 	
3.2	What was the time between the date of the referral letter and the date of the initial appointment for this episode of care?	 1 to 4 weeks 5 to 8 weeks 9 to 12 weeks 13 to 18 weeks More than 18 weeks 	
3.3	Was a letter sent to the referrer?	YesNo	
3.3α	If no:	 Not current practice Therapy ongoing but letter to be sent on completion No requirement as discussed directly with referrer at MDT review 	
	If yes:		
3.3b	Did the letter include details of the therapy assessment?	YesNo	
3.3c	Did the letter include therapy outcome scores?	YesNo	

	Did the letter include an intervention plan?	YesNo	
3.4	If the patient is in the complex or palliative phase, is there evidence of anticipatory care planning in the last 12 months?	 Yes No Not in complex or palliative phase Not indicated 	
4. In	plementation of national	recommendations	
Stan men	nbers and carers (as appro	opriate), and specialist and secondary healthc	are providers. (NICE NG71 1.1.5)
men Stan prob	dard C: Offer Parkinson's d lems. (NICE NG71 1.7.3)	isease-specific physiotherapy for people who	
men Stan	dard C: Offer Parkinson's d		

		 Falls diary Five Times Sit to Stand Functional Gait Assessment Goal Attainment Scaling (GAS) History of Falling Lindop Parkinson's Assessment Scale (LPAS) Mini-BESTest Modified Parkinson's Activity Scale (M-PAS) New Freezing of Gait questionnaire (NFOG-Q) Patient Specific Index for Parkinson's Disease (PSI-PD) Push & Release Test Rapid Turns Test Six Minute Walk distance Timed Get up & Go Tragus to Wall (Posture measure) Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale (UPDRS) Other (Please list) 	
4.2	If no, why were no outcome measures used?	Free text	
4.3	Was exercise/activity advice/intervention offered to this individual?	YesNoNot appropriate	
4.3a	If yes, please tick all that apply	 Aerobic exercise Alexander Technique Boxing Cycling 	

4.4	Were any technology/apps used/advised for this individual?	 Dance Exercise programme focused on balance Exercise programme focusing on flexibility Exercise programme focusing on strength Function-based exercise (e.g. stair practice) High Intensity Interval Training LSVT-BIG Nordic Walking PD Warrior Pilates PWR!Moves Tai Chi Treadmill training Yoga Other (please specify) Yes No 	
4.4a	lf yes - what was used/advised?	 Kinetograph Fitbit or other activity monitor PKG Other (please state) 	Tick all that apply
5. Ab	out the physiotherapist		
5.1	What band (grade) is the physiotherapist who carried out the initial assessment of this person?	 4 5 6 7 8a 8b 	

5.2	Approximately what percentage of people seen by the audited physiotherapist in a year have Parkinson's?	 8c Other 0-19% 20-39% 40-59% 60-79% 80-99% 100% 	
		• Unknown	
6. Evi	dence base		
6.1	Which of the following did the audited therapist use to inform clinical practice or guide intervention?	 Own Clinical experience Advice from colleague or supervisor European Physiotherapy Guideline for Parkinson's Disease (2013) Allied Health Professionals' competency framework for progressive neurological conditions NICE - Parkinson's disease: diagnosis and management in primary and secondary care (2017) National Service Framework for Long Term Neurological Conditions (NSF – LTNC) guidelines Allied Health Professionals' competency framework for progressive neurological conditions Published evidence in a peer reviewed journal (read within last 12 months) Information from Parkison's UK website' Postgraduate training (eg attending course/lectures specific to Parkinson's) within last 24 months Other (please specify) None 	Tick all that apply