

Parkinson's Audit 2009 Report Summary

A multi-professional steering group under the Chairmanship of Steve Ford, Chief Executive of Parkinson's UK has launched the Parkinson's Audit of national standards relating to Parkinson's care, and incorporating Parkinson's NICE Guideline and National Service Framework for Long Term Neurological Conditions quality standards. The data on suggestive Parkinson's patients and Parkinson's services was collected for five months from 1 July to 30 November 2009. 45 centres completed the Audit and provided data on 1,256 patients and 113 services from 60 commissioning areas (PCT or equivalent) from England (covering all SHAs), Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Guernsey. The main results are:

- There are service inequalities in different geographical areas.
- One third of patients waited to be seen for more than six weeks following referral with suspected Parkinson's, with an average delay of 2.5 weeks.
- 13.5% of suspected Parkinson's patients received drug treatment from a general practitioner (GP) or non Parkinson's consultant before being referred for differential diagnosis.
- One in every five patients had no documented assessment of activities of daily living (ADL) to trigger referral.
- More than a half of participating centres were not using an ADL assessment proforma. Only 15% of Parkinson's patients had a formal assessment of their activities of daily living assessed using a specific proforma.
- Only 56% of Parkinson's patients had a documented assessment of speech and communication and only two out of every five (43%) had a mention of swallow function. Just over one third (38%) of audited specialists have access to the Lee Silverman voice treatment.
- 43% of new Parkinson's patients had a documented need for physiotherapy; however, only 35% were referred.
- Very few patients without a specific therapy indication were referred for proactive education purposes.
- One in five patients was not offered Parkinson's nurse contact details despite the service being available.
- Medications indicated for complex patients (Duodopa, Rotigotine, Apomorphine, Zelapar, Rasagiline, Tolcapone) were restricted or not accessible in some centres.
- One third of the services (35%) have no or restricted access to neurosurgery for Parkinson's.

The Audit showed that there are a lot of gaps in differential diagnosis, assessment of the condition as well as therapy for suspected or newly diagnosed Parkinson's patients. Service differs in various geographical centres within the United Kingdom, suggesting existing inequalities in service for suspected or newly diagnosed Parkinson's cases.