

Overview and key findings from 2022 UK Parkinson's Audit

In March 2023, the Parkinson's Excellence Network published the 2022 UK Parkinson's Audit Summary Report. The report outlines data from 506 healthcare services across the UK that see people with Parkinson's and identifies areas of good practice, as well as where improvements can be made.

What is the UK Parkinson's Audit?

[The UK Parkinson's Audit](#) investigates the quality and experience of care for people with Parkinson's and their loved ones. It provides the opportunity for elderly care, neurology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech and language therapy services to be involved in a recognised continuous improvement cycle, and be part of a larger Parkinson's community committed to service quality.

Why is it important for people with Parkinson's?

The Audit is key to maintaining and improving consistent standards of care for people with Parkinson's across the UK. It provides national benchmarking against evidence-based standards to encourage the delivery of high-quality, personalised care across all regions.

It also gives people with Parkinson's, their families and friends an opportunity to provide feedback about services to drive positive change.

What did the 2022 Audit find?

The 2022 Audit reports on the care provided to **9,760 people** with the condition during a 5 month data collection period. Details about 506 clinical services from across the UK were also collected, as well as the views of **6,795 people with Parkinson's and their family, friends and carers** via a patient experience questionnaire.

Overall, the findings show a mixed picture for Parkinson's health services. The report highlights several areas within Parkinson's care of good and/or improving practice which is impressive given the challenges that services have been facing, including COVID-19. However, the audit also identified many areas which have not improved or have deteriorated. Below we have pulled out some of the key themes and statistics.

Overarching themes

Evidence of improvements

Since the last audit in 2019, there has been an improvement in a number of aspects of Parkinson's care.

Access to specialist care

- 97% of patients have access to a Parkinson's specialist nurse or equivalent (up from 89% in 2019). However, patients can experience a long wait for access to specialist care.
- There is improved involvement of the wider multidisciplinary team and access to therapists with experience in Parkinson's.

Sustained improvement in monitoring of impulse control behaviours

- 77% of patients on dopaminergic therapy (treatment to regulate the levels of dopamine through the use of either agonists or antagonists) have had a recorded discussion about compulsive behaviours in the last 12 months, compared to 64% in 2015.

Assessment and management of bone health

- Assessments of patients' bone health (fracture risk and or osteoporosis) improved from 40% in 2019 to 60%, possibly reflecting the raised profile of this important aspect of Parkinson's care.
- Those services that have actively participated in the first phase of the Excellence Network's national Bone Health service improvement project assessed bone health in 75% of their audited patients.

Options for different types of contact

- Parkinson's services are providing patients with options for different types of contact, including remote consultations. 93% of audited services are offering remote consultations.

Advice and information

- 74% of respondents are given information about keeping active and physical exercise (this was a new question for 2022 so there is no comparator).
- 80% of patients and/or carers were signposted to Parkinson's UK in the last year (79% in 2019).

Induction for new occupational therapists and speech and language therapists

- There was an increase in the number of new occupational therapists being offered an induction (47% compared to 33% in 2019).
- An increase was also seen in the number of services offering a Parkinson's-specific induction for new speech and language therapists (from 41% compared to 19% in 2019 and 17% in 2017).
- The number of services with no induction or support strategies for therapists who are new to working with people with Parkinson's has decreased to 11% from 30% in 2019.

Areas for improvements

Since the last audit in 2019, some areas of Parkinson's care have not improved, or have deteriorated.

Specialised multidisciplinary working

- Results showed that there is still room for improvement in access to therapists.
- Respondents to the patient experience questionnaire who felt they required access to services reported a decreased ability to access occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech and language therapy services compared with 2019 data.
- Only 45% of people with Parkinson's have access to an occupational therapist (54% in 2019), 62% to a physiotherapist (67% in 2019) and 40% to a speech and language therapist (48% in 2019).

Standardised practices and evidence based guidelines

- Findings from the patient experience questionnaire showed that 80% of people with Parkinson's who drive are not given advice or were not sure if they'd been given advice.
- Only 36% of patients in the advanced stages of the condition had had a documented discussion about Anticipatory Care Planning. However there was an improvement in lasting power of attorney advice for patients in the palliative phase (up to 67% in 2022 from 50% in 2015).
- 88% of services do not have access to clozapine (antipsychotic medication. This figure is unchanged from 2019).

Communication and information sharing

- 40% of people newly diagnosed with Parkinson's reported not receiving enough information about the condition or were unsure if they had. This figure is the same as 2019 data.

Medicines management

- Only 42% of respondents who were admitted to hospital consistently received their medication on time (47% in 2019). Of those who did not receive their medication on time, 40% said this had a negative or significantly negative effect.

Educating the workforce

- 1 in 5 consultants have not undertaken any Parkinson's-related continuing professional development (CPD) in the last 12 months.
- Only 43% of physiotherapists have received post-graduate Parkinson's-relevant training within the last 2 years, despite the service audit data showing 91% of services could access Parkinson's-related CPD annually.

Find out more about the Audit

[Visit our website](#) to read the full 2022 Audit Summary Report and learn more about the audit. You can also find information about all of our past audits. For any questions about the audit, please contact audit@parkinsons.org.uk.