

2. Neurology Generic Care Pathway

A 'care pathway' is a useful tool to guide and map the care you receive, by whom and at what stage in your condition.

Many conditions are now using the Map of Medicine (MOM) to promote care pathways with adaptation locally of care which is based on national recommended guidelines. Find on www.mapofmedicine.com/

Patients and carers

The Map of Medicine is intended for use by healthcare professionals in a clinical setting. The Map of Medicine should not be used as a substitute for a healthcare professional's diagnosis or clinical decisions, by healthcare professionals or other users.

The treatment responsibility of a patient lies solely with the healthcare professional responsible for that treatment.

The Map of Medicine is not exhaustive and may not reflect the most recent medical research. However, it helps to promote integrated working across health and social care providers and to work more closely with tertiary resources (e.g. the voluntary sector) to achieve an organised network that is easily accessible and provides local care where appropriate. <http://healthguides.mapofmedicine.com/choices/map/index.html>

Early symptoms

GP, Consultant Neurologist / Physician / Geriatrician (in a GP surgery or Consultant Clinic). Examination and tests leading to diagnosis, and signposting to education and support.

Early stage management

GP, Consultant Neurologist / Physician / Geriatrician, Specialist Nurse, Therapist, Neurology Care Advisor (in clinics and various health care settings). Education and optimising symptom management and supported self-care.

Middle stage management

GP, Consultant Neurologist / Physician / Specialist Nurse, Community Nurse, Therapist, Neurology Care Advisor, Adult Care and Support and other agencies involved in support (in clinics and various health and social care settings or own home). Condition management with supported personal health and care plans to enable health, independence and well-being. Supported self-care and access to assistive technology.

Complex stage management

GP, Consultant Neurologist / Physician / Specialist Nurse, Community Nurse, Palliative Care Service, Therapist, Neurology Care Advisor, Adult Care and Support and other agencies involved in support (in clinics and various health and social care settings or own home). Access to specialist support and care as needed as close to home as appropriate.

Keeping you informed

Your consultant and GP should be able to provide you with comprehensive information about your condition. If you are under the care of a specialist nursing team, or a health/social care professional, they will also be able to provide information, or direct you to a reliable source.

In addition most neurological conditions have a national organisation that represents the interests of people living with, and affected by that condition.

At the back of this directory are comprehensive contact details for each of these groups.

Quote from a service user:

‘As service users and carers it is easy to spot three kinds of professional from all parts of health and social care including commissioners and providers:

- those who care but think they know best
- those who listen but only enact what they agree with and
- those who engage with service users on an equal footing, using expertise on both sides to co-design services and achieve better outcomes.’