



Manifesto 2015

A call to action for neurology

Call to action for neurology 2015

Neurology is one of the biggest care and research challenges facing us today. The number of neurological cases has reached **12.5 million** in England alone. NHS spending on neurological care has also sky-rocketed by over **200%** in the last ten years.

As our population continues to grow and life expectancy increases, the number of people with a neurological condition will continue to rise. We need services that can meet this **growing demand** and we therefore call on the Government to **act now** by addressing the following issues.

1

Data and intelligence on neurological conditions must:

- Cover all aspects of neurological care and outcomes
- Be collected and published at least annually
- Be routinely used to improve services

Why?

Only a fraction of the data needed to drive better patient care, accountability and value for money in neurology is currently collected and published by the health and care system. Improving this is a win-win strategy for health and care services and people affected by neurological conditions.

2

Access to specialist care must be:

- a reality for all people with neurological conditions, from diagnosis to the end of life
- available across all care settings – in the home, in the community and in hospital

Why?

Neurological conditions can vary widely in terms of their impact. They include progressive, incurable conditions, stable conditions, and also sudden-onset neurological incidents that can severely affect a person's life. All types of neurological condition require life-long support. The complex nature of these conditions means that professionals with specific expertise and training are needed to help diagnose and manage them. In addition to providing expert knowledge on conditions and treatment options, specialist care should incorporate tailored care planning, integration of care and multidisciplinary working. Failing to access specialist care can lead to poorer outcomes for people affected by neurological conditions and put pressure on other parts of the health and social care system.

3

Research into new and better treatments for neurological conditions must:

- receive ring-fenced UK Government investment and leadership to match the burden and full spectrum of neurological conditions
- be encouraged as part of an environment that promotes clinical trials in the UK

Why?

The brain, spine and nervous system make up our body's coordination centre, allowing us to move, feel and interact with the world. They are critical to human experience, yet we know relatively little about them. Limited investment in neurological research means that people with neurological conditions have only a small range of treatment options and a reduced chance of cures being discovered in the future.

About us

The Neurological Alliance is the collective voice of more than 80 national and regional organisations working together to make life better for the millions of people in England with a neurological condition. We campaign for access to high quality, joined up services and information for every person diagnosed with a neurological condition, from their first symptoms, and throughout their life.

The Neurological Alliance is a charity registered by the Charity Commission for England and Wales (registration number 1039034) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England (registration number 2939840).

Our recent reports

- [Measuring up: improving the quality of neurological data and intelligence](#) (April 2014)
- [Neuro Numbers](#) (April 2014)
- [Going the distance: National calls to action to drive neurological service improvement in England](#) (March 2014)
- [Navigating neurology services: helping strategic clinical networks to be a success story](#) (September 2013)

Contact us

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