

00100 Establishing a Care Pathway for Children With Long-term Neurological Condition

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Aims: Children with long-term neurological condition (LTNC) have complex health, educational and social needs. The team looking after this group of children is usually large, comprising of members across different subspecialties, both at the tertiary hospital and in the community. At present, care for children with LTNC is not standardized and consistent. We aim to establish a care pathway for children with LTNC to provide anticipatory care for this group of children through a long term, multi-disciplinary follow-up with a tight community network. This in turn will improve utilization of resources, reduce burden of care and promote health.

Methodology: We conducted a literature search of PubMed, EMBASE, and Cochrane databases using a combination of keywords and MESH terms including "cerebral palsy", "acquired brain injury", "motor disorder", "hip surveillance", "bone health", "nutrition" and "functional outcome". All recommendations describing different aspects of care for children with LTNC were included. A team of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals critiqued and reviewed the guidelines to ensure agreement. After the initial review, revisions were made according to local feasibility and practicality. All recommendations were then incorporated into a care pathway and circulated to the department for final review and endorsement.

Result: Key recommendations include screening our local children with LTNC for hip subluxation, pain, bowel and bladder issues; and optimization of bone health, sleep and nutrition. Following the establishment of care pathway, staff education is implemented.

Conclusion: The developed care pathway provides a basis for the systematic management of children with LTNC. It also bridges service gaps between tertiary and community institutions and ensures continuity of care for this group of patients with complex needs.