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Research Summary

Implementation Research Programme



Identifying Continence Options after Stroke

ICONS

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FUNDING

National Institute for Health Research

£1,202,831

RESEARCH QUESTION

What is the impact of combined behavioural interventions for the management of post-stroke urinary incontinence?

THE TEAM

Project lead: Professor Caroline Watkins: clwatkins@uclan.ac.uk

Co applicants include:

Dr Chris Burton: c.burton@bangor.ac.uk

DESIGN

Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial as part of a wider NIHR Programme Grant. One trial arm includes supported implementation drawing on theoretical perspectives about facilitation and the work of implementation.

ABOUT THE STUDY

Urinary incontinence is common after stroke and can be very unpleasant and a cause of distress and embarrassment for patients and their carers. Urinary incontinence may hamper rehabilitation and may affect whether or not patients are able to return to their own home, as well as return to leisure activities, work or an active social life. It is also costly for families and for the Health Service. This research programme is developing and testing the effectiveness of a package of assessment and treatment of urinary incontinence while people are in hospital, which is designed to help them become continent again. The assessment and treatment package is being tested on its own in some centres, and with additional support to help clinical staff with implementation in other centres. Comparisons of patient outcomes with usual care are being made, and staff and patients are being asked about the acceptability of the assessment and treatment package.