

**Moving stroke rehabilitation research evidence into clinical practice: Consensus-based core recommendations from the Stroke Recovery and Rehabilitation Roundtable**

Eng, Janice J; Bird, Marie-Louise; Godecke, Erin; Hoffmann, Tammy C; Laurin, Carole; Olaoye, Olumide A; Solomon, John; Teasell, Robert; Watkins, Caroline L; Walker, Marion F

*Published in:*  
International Journal of Stroke

*DOI:*  
[10.1177/1747493019873597](https://doi.org/10.1177/1747493019873597)

Published: 01/10/2019

*Document Version:*  
Peer reviewed version

*Licence:*  
Other

[Link to publication in Bond University research repository.](#)

*Recommended citation(APA):*

Eng, J. J., Bird, M-L., Godecke, E., Hoffmann, T. C., Laurin, C., Olaoye, O. A., Solomon, J., Teasell, R., Watkins, C. L., & Walker, M. F. (2019). Moving stroke rehabilitation research evidence into clinical practice: Consensus-based core recommendations from the Stroke Recovery and Rehabilitation Roundtable. *International Journal of Stroke*, 14(8), 766-773. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1747493019873597>

**General rights**

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

For more information, or if you believe that this document breaches copyright, please contact the Bond University research repository coordinator.

Moving stroke rehabilitation research evidence into clinical practice: Consensus-based core recommendations from the Stroke Recovery and Rehabilitation Roundtable

Janice J Eng<sup>1</sup>, Marie-Louise Bird<sup>1,2</sup>, Erin Godecke<sup>3</sup>, Tammy C Hoffmann<sup>4</sup>, Carole Laurin<sup>5</sup>, Olumide A Olaoye<sup>6</sup>, John Solomon<sup>7</sup>, Robert Teasell<sup>8</sup>, Caroline L Watkins<sup>9</sup>, Marion F Walker<sup>10</sup>

Affiliations:

<sup>1</sup>Department of Physical Therapy, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

<sup>2</sup>School of Health Sciences, University of Tasmania, Launceston, Australia

<sup>3</sup>School of Medical and Health Sciences, Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia

<sup>4</sup>Centre for Research in Evidence-Based Practice, Bond University, Gold Coast, Australia

<sup>5</sup>Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

<sup>6</sup>Department of Medical Rehabilitation, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria

<sup>7</sup>Department of Physiotherapy, School of Allied Health Sciences, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, India

<sup>8</sup>Parkwood Institute Research, Lawson Health Research Institute and Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of Western Ontario, London, Canada

<sup>9</sup>University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK and Australian Catholic University, Sydney, Australia

<sup>10</sup>School of Medicine, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK

Corresponding author:

Janice J Eng, University of British Columbia  
212-2177 Wesbrook Mall, Vancouver, V6T 1Z3, Canada.  
Email: janice.eng@ubc.ca

Keywords: Knowledge translation, Implementation, Stroke, Rehabilitation, Recovery, Consensus

Word count: 3838

## **Abstract**

Moving research evidence to practice can take years, if not decades, which denies stroke patients and families from receiving the best care. We present the results of an international consensus process prioritizing what research evidence to implement into stroke rehabilitation practice to have maximal impact. An international 10-member Knowledge Translation Working Group collaborated over a six-month period via videoconferences and a two-day face-to-face meeting. The process was informed from surveys received from 112 consumers/family members and 502 health care providers in over 28 countries, as well as from an international advisory of 20 representatives from 13 countries. From this consensus process, five of the nine identified priorities relate to service delivery (interdisciplinary care, screening and assessment, clinical practice guidelines, intensity, family support) and are generally feasible to implement or improve upon today. Readily available website resources are identified to help health care providers harness the necessary means to implement existing knowledge and solutions to improve service delivery. The remaining four priorities relate to system issues (access to services, transitions in care) and resources (equipment/technology, staffing) and are acknowledged to be more difficult to implement. We recommend that health care providers, managers, and organizations determine whether the priorities we identified are gaps in their local practice, and if so, consider implementation solutions to address them to improve the quality of lives of people living with stroke.

## Introduction

In recent years there has been an exponential rise in the publication of randomized controlled trials in stroke rehabilitation; more than two thousand trials inform our practice.<sup>1</sup> Given the significant resources invested in this production and the importance of the knowledge generated, concerted efforts should be taken to move relevant research evidence into practice.

The process of moving research into practice falls under the broader umbrella of knowledge translation (KT).<sup>2</sup> Historically, there has been a large time gap, if not decades between the generation of evidence and its implementation in practice.<sup>3,4</sup> While drug development can have a particularly long time lag, even new psychosocial and health service delivery interventions have typically taken over 10 years from the start of phase 3 trials to implementation.<sup>3</sup> This evidence-to-practice gap denies patients the opportunity to benefit from more effective treatments and is a waste of the finite resources in today's healthcare system. However, one should avoid the "KT imperative" which is a perceived notion to implement all research at all cost.<sup>5</sup> Clearly a process for determining the most impactful research to be implemented is needed.

The overall objective of this project was to identify what stroke rehabilitation research or knowledge to move to practice to have the maximum impact for people after stroke. Relevant stakeholder involvement is essential for prioritizing what research evidence to implement, including the end users; those delivering and those receiving the treatment.<sup>6</sup> Health care providers are most aware of what is currently delivered in practice and where gaps may lie. Patient involvement can change the priorities for healthcare improvement<sup>7</sup> thereby improving their quality and relevance.<sup>8</sup>

Prioritizing what should be translated into stroke rehabilitation practice can assist health care providers, managers, and health care organizations in their decision-making and has the potential to have an immediate impact on the quality of lives of people living with stroke. It can also provide guidance for KT researchers and funders as to where to direct their efforts for maximum effect. Lastly, prioritizing KT initiatives can lead to resource development that informs us how to implement specific activities, as well as lead to national and international collaborations to address these practice gaps.

## **Methods**

### **KT Working Group**

The Stroke Recovery and Rehabilitation Roundtable (SRRR) is an international collaboration to accelerate stroke treatments and effective care in rehabilitation practice and this paper represents activities from the second Roundtable.<sup>9</sup> From this network, a KT Working Group was assembled with the aim of ensuring an international perspective, including representation from low and middle income countries (LMICs). The 10-member group was geographically spread over North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia, and had representation from a consumer living with stroke, as well as experts with stroke rehabilitation backgrounds in KT, medicine, physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT), nursing, speech and language pathology (SLP), and management. The Working Group interacted over videoconference and email discussions for six months leading to the face-to-face meeting and undertook the following five steps.

#### **Step 1. Assemble an international advisory to achieve global perspectives**

Recognizing the limits of our small working group, we assembled a larger international advisory group with a mandate to provide additional feedback on our processes, and to assist in seeking input from

their local health providers and consumers with stroke. The advisory was solicited from contacts of the wider SRRR Executive and KT Working Group. The international advisory group consisted of 20 representatives from 13 countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, UK) and represented eight professions (neurology, rehabilitation medicine, psychology, OT, PT, SLP, dentistry, nursing).

### **Step 2: Identify factors to consider when prioritizing treatments to move to practice**

The Working Group identified factors to consider when prioritizing treatments or processes to move to practice based on a literature review.<sup>e.g., 10-11</sup> Working Group members individually ranked the factors in order of importance and this data was aggregate rank-ordered<sup>12</sup> with the result that the most important factor was 1. Level of evidence (i.e., included consideration of the research design, the size of effect, confidence intervals, sample sizes and relevance of the evidence); 2. Personal impact (i.e., Impact on the patient's quality of life); 3. Feasibility (including consideration of local context); and lastly, 4. System impact (i.e., Impact on the health care system). Treatments were subsequently viewed through the lens of all these factors.

### **Step 3: Gather input from health care providers**

The Working Group developed a survey with input from the International Advisory to gather perspectives from health care providers on KT priorities for stroke rehabilitation and distributed through the SRRR Executive, the KT Working Group and International Advisory. The survey was translated into Chinese and Portuguese. The survey informed the respondent that not all effective treatments are currently delivered or implemented in every region and asked the respondent to provide up to three examples of treatments or services they thought, based on their knowledge and experience, would have

the largest impact on the problems that people have during stroke recovery and rehabilitation. The core survey questions are documented in Appendix 1.

#### **Step 4: Gather input from consumers**

The Working Group developed a similar survey (Appendix 1) to gather wide input from consumers and caregivers, and this was distributed to the same networks as previously mentioned. Approval for the health provider and consumer surveys were obtained from the university's research ethics board and the local health authority and participants provided informed consent.

#### **Step 5: Prioritize treatments and processes to move to practice through a face-to-face consensus meeting**

Two members of the Working Group consolidated the data, independently reducing redundancies and identifying topics, and then comparing for consensus. Recurring topics were identified and background information on the four factors (Level of evidence, Personal impact, Feasibility, System impact) were collated for each topic from existing clinical practice guidelines, Cochrane Reviews, meta-analyses, the Evidence-based Reviews in Stroke Rehabilitation<sup>1</sup>, and studies on patient preferences.<sup>13</sup> At a two-day face-to-face meeting, the Working Group reviewed the survey data and background information and were asked to keep in mind the four factors and their order previously established. The Working Group further consolidated the list of topics and each remaining topic was voted on anonymously (yes/no) to produce a core set of priorities. These priorities were reported back to the entire SRRR collaboration (n=41) for additional roundtable discussion.

## **Results**

### **Consumer survey**

A total of 112 people responded to the survey and provided a total of 312 examples or topics. The respondents were primarily consumers living with stroke (97) and the rest were family or caregivers. The largest response was from Canadian participants (72%) with smaller representation from Australia, Germany, India, UK, and USA. A total of 11 consolidated topics were identified.

### **Health care provider survey**

A total of 502 people responded to the survey and provided a total of 1452 topics. The respondents had the following backgrounds: PT (39%); physician (17%); SLP (14%), OT (14%), nursing (8%), psychology (2%), and other (5%). Respondents were from 28 Countries with 31% responses from LMICs and 69% from high income countries (HICs). The largest response from HICs were from Australia (20%), United Kingdom (16%), Canada (13%) and United States (7%). The largest response from LMICs was from China (13%), Brazil (8%) and India (7%). A total of 14 consolidated topics were identified.

### **Consensus on priorities**

The 14 health provider topics spanned the 11 consumer topics, although not in the same groupings or with the same frequency. For example, interdisciplinary care was cited frequently by the health care providers, while social isolation and family support was frequent with consumers. Access to care was cited frequently by both groups. The largest discrepancy between the health care provider and consumer responses was the topic of fatigue which was highlighted by approximately 10% of consumers, but by less than 1% of the healthcare providers.

After discussion, two of the 14 topics were combined and members then voted whether to retain each of the 13 topics. Nine topics had at least 90% of the members agreeing that it should remain a priority,



and the rest had less than 50% consensus. The group decided not to rank-order the topics as the subset was small and differences unlikely to be meaningful. These nine topics were grouped into three domains using an inductive approach.

1. Service Delivery (intervention at the practice level)
2. System (interventions at the system level)
3. Resource (staffing/equipment)

Table 1 provides a short description of the topics included in each domain with supporting quotes from the data. While the labels were meant to represent topics highlighted by health care providers and consumers, they are not independent; for example, more access to services was categorized in the System Domain and could potentially facilitate more intensity of rehabilitation in the Service Delivery Domain. Staffing of clinicians was categorized as both a Resource Domain (with respect to the number of clinicians) and Delivery Domain (with respect to the expertise of clinicians).

### **LMIC versus HICs**

Most topics spanned across LMICs and HICs. There were some differences with intensity being a topic primarily from HICs (34% vs 8%). Intensity related to more patient therapy time or activity (e.g., nursing, physical or occupational therapy, speech therapy) or higher levels of physical activity (greater repetitions, strengthening, aerobic training). Very few LMICs (2%) prioritized transitions to care while 14% of HICs did.

### **Health care provider priorities**

Topics of interdisciplinary care, access to services, intensity, staffing and transitions in care spanned across health care providers. Screening and assessment were most frequently identified by physicians. A small number of discipline-specific topics were identified and included functional electrical stimulation (physical therapy), aphasia/communication training (speech therapy), and continence (nursing), but were not frequent enough to warrant a separate topic.

## **Discussion**

This project utilized input from a range of stakeholders across the world from LMICs and HICs to achieve consensus on priorities for implementing research evidence into stroke rehabilitation practice. We recommend that health care providers, stroke rehabilitation teams and their managers use these recommendations to inform efforts to improve their services and practice. We provide an infographic (Figure 1) which summarizes our findings for front-line clinicians. We recommend that the identified priorities can be used by funding agencies to target implementation activities. We also recommend that researchers develop methods to facilitate implementation of these activities into practice; e.g., toolkit to audit and facilitate interdisciplinary care. This is particularly relevant as a recent systematic review found only 16 RCTs which evaluated the effectiveness of KT interventions for changing clinician behaviour or patient outcomes in stroke rehabilitation.<sup>14</sup>

There was general overlap between the consumer and health care provider priorities except for the topic of fatigue. While the Working Group acknowledged the high prevalence and considerable impact of fatigue, they felt that fatigue was not adequately treated in part due to the lack of effective treatments at this time,<sup>15-16</sup> and hence a need for further primary research rather than implementation

activities. The topic of social isolation was also frequently raised by consumers, and to a lesser extent by healthcare providers and may reflect a lack of knowledge on how to assess or treat social isolation, or implement available treatments. Social isolation is amenable to change and a meta-analysis found that activities which encouraged individuals to leave the house and interact with others, as well as exercise activities could improve social participation.<sup>17</sup> Addressing social isolation in the future with implementation research meets this consumer identified need.

Five of the priorities related to service delivery are generally feasible to implement or improve upon. Suggestions for validated protocols and implementation toolkits relating to the priorities are available at <https://journals.sagepub.com/page/wso/srrr> and listed in Appendix 2. For example, screening for dysphagia, cognition and depression have validated screening assessments in multiple languages, straight-forward performance metrics (e.g., proportion of patients screened with documentation), well-defined implementation protocols and do not require advanced technology or highly skilled staff. Their implementation can translate into cost savings by reducing secondary complications and length of stay.<sup>18-19</sup> Detailed evidence-based protocols exist to increase the intensity of rehabilitation (Appendix 2 Intensity) and include group programs, aerobic protocols as well as the use of rehabilitation assistants and caregivers. While a Cochrane Review suggested some benefits of caregivers in assisting with stroke patient exercises,<sup>20</sup> some caution should be exerted in light of the lack of effects from the recent ATTEND trial<sup>21</sup> (n=1,250) and the RECOVER trial<sup>22</sup> (n=246) which used family caregivers in India and China, respectively, to augment the delivery of stroke rehabilitation (e.g., mobility, self-care).

It is recognized that system and resource issues are more difficult to change. For example, transitions in care requires coordination from multiple centres or units. However, a first step could document the

critical performance metrics (see Appendix 2 Transitions in Care) to demonstrate whether care is satisfactory or not.

Rehabilitation interventions are frequently complex, multi-component activities which typically require tailoring to the individual, as well to the local setting. Currently the research community does not sufficiently define their intervention protocols nor identify the active ingredients.<sup>23</sup> From the first SRRR Roundtable, 15 consensus-based recommendations were established related to intervention development, monitoring and reporting to address this gap<sup>23</sup> (e.g., provide a clear description of core intervention components that must be delivered; build an assessment of fidelity into the trial protocol). Journals should endorse reporting guidelines such as these that enable complete and transparent reporting to facilitate translation of the protocol to the real-world setting.

Adherence to evidence-based guidelines is challenging especially as assembling an evidence-based protocol can be difficult for front-line clinicians. The availability of free implementation toolkits (Appendix 2) overcomes some of the barriers for moving research to practice but are scarce to find. We recommend that future practice guidelines be developed with specific performance metrics that stroke programs can use to measure their adherence and include samples of evidence-based protocols to achieve these milestones. These protocols would benefit from stakeholder input (e.g., front-line health care providers, rehabilitation managers, patients) to ensure that they are feasible and acceptable. Furthermore, rehabilitation settings need to ensure that staff time, education and resources are sufficient when trying to change clinician behaviour to better adhere to evidence-based guidelines<sup>24</sup>; support from management is critical for overcoming these barriers and for successful implementation.

Stroke disproportionately impacts LMICs, where individuals have more severe stroke and greater disability and are more likely to have inadequate access to quality care in the acute and rehabilitation phases than those with higher socioeconomic status.<sup>25</sup> Transitions in care was not identified as a priority by LMICs, possibly reflecting the fact that many LMICs have some rehabilitation care primarily in the acute setting with little follow-up into the community. Screening for dysphagia, depression and cognition was frequently cited by LMICs and is highly relevant in the earlier phase of stroke recovery and could make a substantial impact on patient outcomes.

There are limitations in this dataset. Some professions (e.g., PTs, physicians) had greater representation in the health provider survey than others (e.g., psychologists), although we did analyse across, as well as within professions to identify the most common topics to reduce these biases. While the health care providers represented a variety of countries, the consumers were predominantly from one country (Canada) which may have biased the results.

## **Conclusions**

This study identified priorities and made specific recommendations for implementation in stroke rehabilitation from a wide range of stakeholders, providing useful information to drive decision-making in health care (Figure 1). Of note, the topic of fatigue was frequently raised by consumers but was not included as an implementation priority, but rather a topic requiring more primary research. Social isolation was a common concern from consumers, and healthcare providers should be aware of how to assess social isolation and implement available treatments. The criteria and processes described in the methodology are transferable and may be used by other researchers looking to prioritize implementation of research in their clinical areas. We also challenge researchers to develop effective

resources to facilitate implementation of these activities into practice; e.g., toolkit to audit and facilitate interdisciplinary care.

**Declaration of conflicting interests: None**

**Funding**

The authors disclose receipt of the following financial support to conduct this meeting: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) CaSTOR (Canadian Stroke Trials for Optimized Results) Group (note that CaSTOR is a joint initiative of the Canadian Stroke Consortium and the Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery), Heart and Stroke Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery, and NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Stroke Rehabilitation and Brain Recovery. An unrestricted educational grant was provided by Ipsen Pharma.

**Acknowledgements**

We would like to acknowledge our International Advisory – Drs Myzoon Ali, Karen Borschmann, Lilian Braighi Carvalho, Louise Connell, Rebecca Fisher, Lay Fong, Nalia Gurgel-Juarez, Nicola Hayes, Victor Iki, Ayesha Kamal, Sandra Lever, Elizabeth Lynch, Sandy Middleton, Jacqui Morris, Jeyaraj Pandian, Yue Wang, Shaoshi Wang and Mr Gerado Dimaglia. We would like to acknowledge Julie Bernhardt for convening the second Stroke Rehabilitation and Recovery Roundtable (SRRR II), Dale Corbett and Karen Borschmann for organizing the meeting and Farrell Leibovitch for moderating discussions.

Table 1. Description of identified implementation priorities and evidence

<b>Service Delivery</b>	
<p><b>Interdisciplinary care</b>            Improve interdisciplinary team process (communication between staff, patient-centered service, common goals and approaches)</p>	<p>‘All the people working with me should have been on the same page’ (S)            ‘People have got out of the habit of working with other disciplines’ (OT)            ‘More nursing and therapy staff to deliver responsive care and high dose rehabilitation together’ (PT)</p>
<p><b>Screening and assessment</b>            Screening for dysphagia, depression and cognition</p>	<p>‘Consistent cognitive and communication screens in acute care that identify need for further services/evaluation’ (SLP)            ‘Screening for swallowing after stroke’ (MD)</p>
<p><b>Clinical Practice Guidelines (including staff education and training)</b>            Use of evidence-based practice (having accessible protocols and guidelines) and staff education (upskilling, professional development) of evidence-based practice especially with community teams. Support for skill advancement from the entry-level to post graduate level.</p>	<p>‘Education for doctors, police, and first responders’(S)            [Get] ‘Up to date with modern stroke recovery techniques. NMES, FES, TENS, splints, hydrotherapy, recumbent cycles, cardio generally.’(S)            ‘Better knowledge of current evidence regarding AFOs’ (PT)            ‘Better translation of research into practice’ (PT)</p>
<p><b>Intensity</b>            Increase physical rehabilitation in terms of repetitions, task-specific activity (OTs), strengthening, aerobic training, and more therapy time in general (mainly from PTs). Intensity was also highly cited by nurses (motor activity), SLPs (speech therapy) and physicians. More mobility and speech therapy were top priorities by consumers.</p>	<p>‘Continuing with PT and OT sessions on at least a weekly basis after leaving a facility’(S)            ‘Consistent use of high-intensity training’ (MD)            ‘Increase in dose of upper limb rehabilitation from an acute stage to community’ (OT)</p>
<p><b>Family support</b>            Support groups and communication training for partner/caregiver to reduce social isolation, as well as self-management strategies.</p>	<p>‘Simply knowing that help is available’(S)            ‘Amalgamation of resources, services and opportunities available to support individuals and caregivers’ (S)            ‘Education and support regarding chronic, long-term effects of stroke i.e. fatigue, social isolation’ (S)</p>
<b>System</b>	
<p><b>Access to services</b>            Early access to services. Access to outpatient and home/community services. Access to psychology, SLP, for women and younger stroke persons identified. Treatment based on better diagnostics and pathways/algorithms. Access more equitable across regions.</p>	<p>‘Psychologist to cope’/Psychotherapy from the start’(S)            ‘Access to specialist diagnostic services for people living in rural and remote areas’(S)            ‘Immediate therapy... I was almost a month before meaningful therapy began’(S)            ‘Early access to rehab’ (OT)            ‘Stroke centres where patients could attend for rehab, exercise classes and support from other patients’ (PT)</p>

	<p>'Stroke Care Centres similar to Cancer Care'(S)</p> <p>'Increasing the amount of rehabilitation beds especially for younger patients' (MD)</p>
<p><b>Transitions in care (coordinated care and transition to community)</b></p> <p>Community reintegration/community-based rehabilitation and early supported discharge. Establish clear criteria and pathways from acute to rehabilitation, and then to community, minimizing wait times and delayed discharges.</p>	<p>'An early supported discharge provision' (nurse)</p> <p>'Improved continuity of care, from acute to rehab to chronic' (MD)</p> <p>'Sending the patient to the right place at the right time' (nurse)</p> <p>'Stroke Survivor Associations. We need to connect with others who understand our losses, find hope (especially in acute care &amp; post discharge), and participate in activities that build confidence to once again feel a part of our communities.' (S)</p> <p>'Provide the patient with real stroke survivor life experience to integrate limitations in the current life' (S)</p>
<p><b>Resources</b></p>	
<p><b>Equipment and technology</b></p> <p>Funding needs for equipment for facility, (including telemedicine), technology to increase intensity of rehabilitation as well as for adaptive equipment for patients in the home.</p>	<p>'Increasing access to computer/technology rehabilitation' (SLP)</p> <p>'Better utilisation of equipment' (nurse)</p> <p>'Access to rehab technologies' (PT)</p>
<p><b>Staffing (numbers/ ratio to patients)</b></p> <p>More people (all professions) on the ground to do the work.</p>	<p>'More staffing for clinicians to become more specialised and skilled' (SLP)</p> <p>'Increased staffing' (OT)</p> <p>'Sufficient staffing to give more therapy time' (PT)</p> <p>'Enough trained therapists or doctors or nurses that are available for questions' (S)</p>

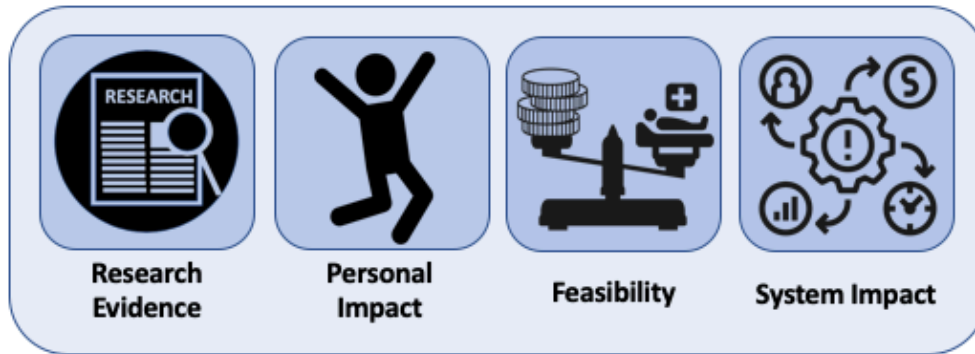
CPG=Clinical Practice Guidelines, PT= Physical Therapist, OT=occupational therapist, MD=Doctor, SLP=Speech Language pathologist S=stroke survivor



## Figure Legends

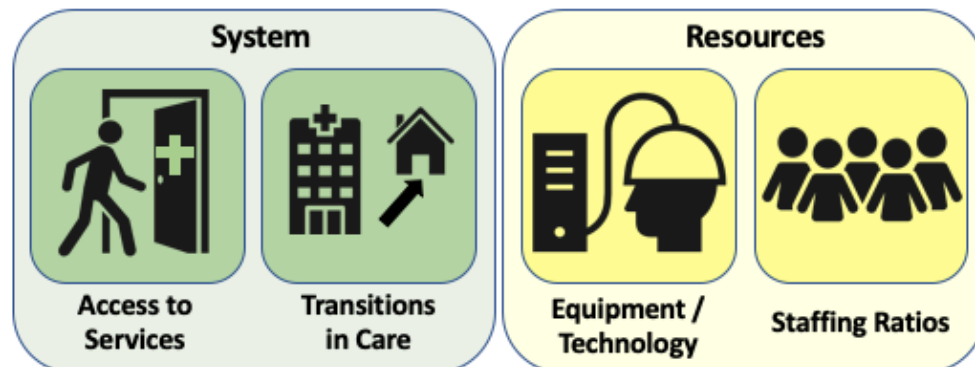
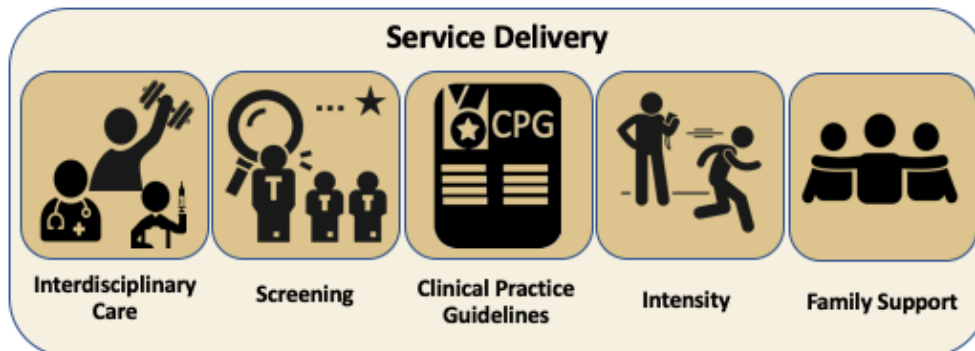
Figure 1. Infographics on Implementation Priorities from the consensus-based core recommendations of the Stroke Recovery and Rehabilitation Roundtable  
(note separate high resolution pdf of figure)

## Consider the following when identifying treatments to move to stroke rehabilitation practice



These are priorities of health care providers and consumers.

Does your site need improvement in these areas?



Check out implementation tips at:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/page/wso/srrr>

Recommendations from the Stroke Recovery and Rehabilitation Roundtable Knowledge Translation Working Group with input from 502 health care providers and 112 consumers/family members from 28 countries



## References

1. Evidence-based Review of Stroke Rehabilitation (EBRSR). 2018. Retrieved from <http://www.ebrsr.com>
2. Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Knowledge Translation 2016. <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/29418.html>
3. Hanney SR, Castle-Clarke S, Grant J, et al. How long does biomedical research take? Studying the time taken between biomedical and health research and its translation into products, policy, and practice. *Health Res Policy Syst.* 2015;13:1.
4. Morris ZS, Wooding S, Grant J. The answer is 17 years, what is the question: understanding time lags in translational research. *J R Soc Med* 2011;104:510–520.
5. Graham ID, Tetroe J; KT Theories Research Group. Some theoretical underpinnings of knowledge translation. *Acad Emerg Med.* 2007 Nov;14(11):936-41.
6. Walker MF, Fisher RJ, Korner-Bitensky N, et al. From what we know to what we do: Translating Stroke Rehabilitation Research into Practice. *Int J Stroke.* 2013;8:11-17.
7. Boivin A, Lehoux P, Lacombe R, et al. Involving patients in setting priorities for healthcare improvement: a cluster randomized trial. *Implement Sci.* 2014;9:24.
8. Crawford MJ, Rutter D, Manley C, et al. Systematic review of involving patients in the planning and development of health care. *BMJ.* 2002;325:1263.
9. Bernhardt J, Borschmann KN, Kwakkel, et al. Setting the scene for the Second Stroke Recovery and Rehabilitation Roundtable. *Int J Stroke* 2019 PMID: 31092153
10. Bayley MT, Teasell RW, Wolfe DL, et al. Where to build the bridge between evidence and practice?: results of an international workshop to prioritize knowledge translation activities in traumatic brain injury care. *J Head Trauma Rehabil.* 2014;29:268-76.
11. Rankin NM, McGregor D, Butow PN, et al. Adapting the nominal group technique for priority setting of evidence-practice gaps in implementation science. *BMC Med Res Methodol.* 2016;16:110.
12. Utley M, Gallivan S, Mills M, et al. A consensus process for identifying a prioritised list of study questions. *Health Care Manag Sci.* 2007;10:105-10.
13. Pollock A, St George B, Fenton M, et al. Top 10 research priorities relating to life after stroke--consensus from stroke survivors, caregivers, and health professionals. *Int J Stroke.* 2014;9:313-20.
14. Bird ML, Miller T, Connell LA, et al. Effectiveness of stroke rehabilitation knowledge translation interventions; a systemic review of randomised controlled trials. *Clinical Rehabilitation* 2019. PMID:31066289

15. Hinkle JL, Becker KJ, Kim JS, et al. Poststroke Fatigue: Emerging Evidence and Approaches to Management: A Scientific Statement for Healthcare Professionals From the American Heart Association. *Stroke*. 2017;48:e159-e170.
16. Wu S, Kutlubaev MA, Chun HY, et al. Interventions for post-stroke fatigue. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2015 Jul 2;(7):CD007030.
17. Obembe AO, Eng JJ. Rehabilitation Interventions for Improving Social Participation After Stroke: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *Neurorehabil Neural Repair*. 2016;30:384-92.
18. Bray BD, Smith CJ, Cloud GC, et al. The association between delays in screening for and assessing dysphagia after acute stroke, and the risk of stroke-associated pneumonia *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 2017;88:25-30.
19. Han TS, Lean ME, Fluck D, et al. Impact of delay in early swallow screening on pneumonia, length of stay in hospital, disability and mortality in acute stroke patients. *Eur J Clin Nutr*. 2018;72:1548-1554.
20. Vloothuis JD, Mulder M, Veerbeek JM, et al. Caregiver-mediated exercises for improving outcomes after stroke. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2016 Dec 21;12:CD011058.
21. ATTEND Collaborative Group. Family-led rehabilitation after stroke in India (ATTEND): a randomised controlled trial. *Lancet*. 2017 Aug 5;390(10094):588-599.
22. Zhou B, Zhang J, Zhao Y, Li X, Anderson CS, Xie B, Wang N, Zhang Y, Tang X, Bettger JP, Chen S, Gu W, Luo R, Zhao Q, Li X, Sun Z, Lindley RI, Lamb SE, Wu Y, Shi J, Yan LL. Caregiver-delivered stroke rehabilitation in rural China: the RECOVERY randomized controlled trial. *Stroke*. In Press.
23. Walker MF, Hoffmann TC, Brady MC, et al. Improving the development, monitoring and reporting of stroke rehabilitation research: Consensus-based core recommendations from the Stroke Recovery and Rehabilitation Roundtable. *Int J Stroke* 2017;12:472-479.
24. Munce SEP, Graham ID, Salbach NM, et al. Perspectives of health care professionals on the facilitators and barriers to the implementation of a stroke rehabilitation guidelines cluster randomized controlled trial. *BMC Health Serv Res*. 2017;17:440.
25. Marshall IJ, Wang Y, Crichton S, et al. The effects of socioeconomic status on stroke risk and outcomes. *Lancet Neurol*. 2015;14:1206-18.

## Online Appendix 1. Survey on Priorities for Stroke Rehabilitation Implementation

### Health Care Provider Question

Evidence-based practice (EBP) is the conscientious and judicious use of current best evidence in conjunction with clinical expertise and patient values to guide health care decisions. Despite evidence to inform practice, we know that there are gaps where practice is slower to change to accept innovation or stop practices which are not supported by EBP. The questions below will help us identify the areas that you think we should be focusing on to prioritise implementation of quality evidence.

From your area of professional practice or any other clinical practice area list up to THREE (3) examples (for example, screening for dysphagia, improved interdisciplinary care or functional electrical stimulation) from your local region where a change in practice or services would make the largest impact on stroke recovery and rehabilitation. It can relate to the implementation of a new screening or assessment process or treatment intervention or other processes in the timeframe from acute, rehabilitation and community setting. As our focus is on recovery and rehabilitation, we are excluding interventions related to the acute medical management (eg, acute brain imaging, thrombectomy, intensive care medical management).

What change in practice would you like to see that would make the **largest impact** on stroke recovery and rehabilitation? [3 text boxes followed to enter response]

### Consumer or Caregiver Question

There are many rehabilitation treatments that are effective for people after stroke. However, not all of these are currently delivered or implemented in every region. This is often due to a lack of knowledge or resources.

Our team is seeking to gain an international agreement on the most important treatments or processes to implement to improve the lives of people living with stroke. This will help health organizations to prioritize their resources and provide appropriate training to health care providers to deliver the best care.

List up to the three most important problems that apply to you or to people living with stroke more generally through the time period of recovery up until now. We would like to know what you, a person living with stroke or caregiver, feel are the most important stroke-related health problems that people living with stroke encounter that may benefit from additional or different treatments or processes.

What change in practice do you think would have the **largest impact** on the problems that people have during stroke recovery and rehabilitation? [3 text boxes followed to enter response]

Online Appendix 2. Website resources supporting protocols for implementation. Available at <https://journals.sagepub.com/page/wso/srrr>

Topic	link
Interdisciplinary team effectiveness	Knowledge sharing on health care teams <a href="http://mobilisinghealthandsocialcareknowledge.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk">http://mobilisinghealthandsocialcareknowledge.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk</a>
Screening (dysphagia, cognition, depression)	PHQ-9 (depression screen) in over 30 languages <a href="https://www.phgscreeners.com">https://www.phgscreeners.com</a>  Montreal Cognitive Assessment in over 50 languages <a href="https://www.mocatest.org">https://www.mocatest.org</a>  Dysphagia Screening step by step implementation of the Toronto Bedside Swallowing Screening Test <a href="https://www.tostroke.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/A-Step-by-Step-Approach-Implementing-Best-Practice-Guidelines-for-Dysphagia-TOR-BSST-Dysphagia-Screening.pdf">https://www.tostroke.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/A-Step-by-Step-Approach-Implementing-Best-Practice-Guidelines-for-Dysphagia-TOR-BSST-Dysphagia-Screening.pdf</a>  National Guideline in Swallow Screening in Stroke 2017 (Ireland) <a href="https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/clinical-strategy-and-programmes/national-guideline-for-swallow-screening-in-stroke-hse.pdf">https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/publications/clinical-strategy-and-programmes/national-guideline-for-swallow-screening-in-stroke-hse.pdf</a>
Clinical Practice Guidelines and evidence-based protocols (within 3 years)	Australian Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management (Living Guidelines) <a href="https://informme.org.au/Guidelines/Clinical-Guidelines-for-Stroke-Management">https://informme.org.au/Guidelines/Clinical-Guidelines-for-Stroke-Management</a>  Canadian Best Stroke Recommendations (2019) <a href="http://www.strokebestpractices.ca">http://www.strokebestpractices.ca</a>  American Heart Association Stroke Council Guidelines for Adult Stroke Rehabilitation and Recovery (2017) <a href="https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/full/10.1161/STR.000000000000098">https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/full/10.1161/STR.000000000000098</a>  UK National Clinical Guideline for Stroke (2016) <a href="https://www.strokeaudit.org/SupportFiles/Documents/Guidelines/2016-National-Clinical-Guideline-for-Stroke-5t-(1).aspx">https://www.strokeaudit.org/SupportFiles/Documents/Guidelines/2016-National-Clinical-Guideline-for-Stroke-5t-(1).aspx</a>  Viatherapy App that matches patient’s upper extremity presentation to evidence-based treatments <a href="https://www.viatherapy.org">https://www.viatherapy.org</a>  iWalk App to facilitate measurement of the 10 meter walk test and 6 Minutes Walk Test (standardized protocol, normative values) <a href="http://www.iwalkassess.com">http://www.iwalkassess.com</a>  Stroke Engine – assessment tools and rehabilitation interventions <a href="https://www.strokengine.ca">https://www.strokengine.ca</a>

Stroke specific competency skill training	<p>19 e-learning modules of basic knowledge for all staff when delivering stroke care (e.g., swallowing, limb weakness, communication)  <a href="http://www.strokecorecompetencies.org">www.strokecorecompetencies.org</a></p> <p>19 e-learning modules for health professionals working in stroke services (e.g., spasticity, pain management, service improvement, self-management)  <a href="http://www.strokeadvancingmodules.org">www.strokeadvancingmodules.org</a></p> <p>12 pdf modules with quizzes for health professionals (e.g., positions, transfers and ambulation, communication, continence, secondary stroke prevention)  <a href="http://www.swostroke.ca/stroke-rehab-unit-orientation/">http://www.swostroke.ca/stroke-rehab-unit-orientation/</a></p> <p>Information on stroke outcome measures and treatments (interface for health providers)  <a href="http://strokengine.ca">http://strokengine.ca</a></p>
Intensity	<p>Group circuit program  <a href="https://www.unisa.edu.au/siteassets/health-sciences/docs/intervention-manual-commercial-may-2012.pdf">https://www.unisa.edu.au/siteassets/health-sciences/docs/intervention-manual-commercial-may-2012.pdf</a></p> <p>Supplementary exercises for the upper extremity  <a href="http://www.neurorehab.med.ubc.ca/grasp">www.neurorehab.med.ubc.ca/grasp</a></p> <p>Group mobility exercise program for stroke  <a href="http://www.fameexercise.com">www.fameexercise.com</a></p> <p>e-Aerobics Course. Case-based e-learning modules on aerobic exercise prescription after stroke  <a href="https://www.strokengine.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/eAerobics-Login-Pagerev.pdf">https://www.strokengine.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/eAerobics-Login-Pagerev.pdf</a></p>
Family support and information	<p>e-learning for informal carers  <a href="http://www.stroke4carers.org">http://www.stroke4carers.org</a></p> <p>Stroke Support Group Toolkit (i.e., how to start a support group)  <a href="https://www.world-stroke.org/for-patients/toolkit">https://www.world-stroke.org/for-patients/toolkit</a> (in 10 languages)  <a href="http://canadianstrokenetwork.ca/en/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/SupportGroupToolkit-EN.pdf">http://canadianstrokenetwork.ca/en/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/SupportGroupToolkit-EN.pdf</a></p> <p>Information on stroke treatments (interface for families)  <a href="http://strokengine.ca">http://strokengine.ca</a></p> <p>Patient version of the UK National Clinical Guideline for Stroke</p>

	<p><a href="https://www.stroke.org.uk/resources/national-clinical-guideline-stroke-patient-version">https://www.stroke.org.uk/resources/national-clinical-guideline-stroke-patient-version</a></p> <p>Living Well Toolkit, a resource for people living with long-term conditions, including stroke  <a href="https://cpcr.aut.ac.nz/research/resources/living-well-toolkit">https://cpcr.aut.ac.nz/research/resources/living-well-toolkit</a></p> <p>Stroke Support Organisation Faculty Tool (SSOFT), an online education resource to set up a support group and advocate for change  <a href="https://academy.ssoft.info">https://academy.ssoft.info</a></p>
<p>Transitions in care (coordination) and follow-up checklist</p>	<p>Suggested performance metrics for community reintegration (e.g., proportion who receive referral for home care; visits to emergency; number referred for driving assessment by community OT)  <a href="https://www.strokebestpractices.ca/recommendations/managing-stroke-transitions-of-care">https://www.strokebestpractices.ca/recommendations/managing-stroke-transitions-of-care</a></p> <p>Post Stroke Checklist: Improving Life after Stroke (in 9 languages)  <a href="https://www.world-stroke.org/2016-12-19-10-55-24/post-stroke-checklist">https://www.world-stroke.org/2016-12-19-10-55-24/post-stroke-checklist</a></p> <p>Greater Manchester Stroke Assessment Tool – Ver 2.  <a href="https://www.clahrc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/projects/gm-sat-2#Downloadable%20Resources">https://www.clahrc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/projects/gm-sat-2#Downloadable%20Resources</a></p> <p>Longer-term unmet needs after stroke  <a href="http://www.lotscare.co.uk/documents/Longer-term%20Unmet%20Needs%20after%20Stroke.pdf">http://www.lotscare.co.uk/documents/Longer-term%20Unmet%20Needs%20after%20Stroke.pdf</a></p>