



A British Pain Society Press Release

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BPS Launches Joint Outcome Measures Document to Improve Patient Care

A set of recommended Outcome Measures, designed to assess and drive up the quality of patient care, will be launched in a new document today.

A joint project between The British Pain Society (BPS) and The Faculty of Pain Medicine of the Royal College of Anaesthetists (FPM), the document offers valuable guidance on available outcome measures used by pain services.

The document includes a shortlist of scales used to assess the outcomes of pain management and covers several aspects of pain including pain quantity, pain interference, physical functioning, emotional functioning, quality of life and patient reported global rating.

This document will guide pain services across the country in helping to select the most appropriate outcome measures for their needs and by having a degree of uniformity on these measures, will help to influence pain service level agreements at a local and national level.

Currently the NHS is moving towards an outcome-based commissioning approach which encourages better value for money and better outcomes for patients in chronic pain.

"We hope that this project will integrate future work-streams by NICE around the provision of Chronic Pain services in the United Kingdom, and complement measures used by allied Royal Colleges and Institutions involved with the care of chronic pain patients" said Dr Andrew Baranowski.

The British Pain Society supports the integrated work of pain services to work towards better care for patients in chronic pain.

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Background information for editors

The British Pain Society

The British Pain Society (BPS) is the largest multidisciplinary professional organisation in the field of pain within the UK. The BPS aims to make pain visible and to treat it better and is the British Chapter of the International Association for the Study of Pain. It is a registered Charity.

Chronic pain is suffered by over a quarter of the population. It is commonly distressing and can be highly disabling. It is devastating for individuals who suffer it. Many cannot work and lose their jobs.

Treatment of pain is a fundamental human right, yet sadly there is an enormous gap between the care people require and what happens in practice. We also do not know enough about the cause and treatment of pain. Our alliance of professionals works collaboratively with patients and industry partners to advance the understanding and management of pain. We strive to reduce the suffering of people enduring daily pain.

Our multidisciplinary nature is pivotal in making The British Pain Society a uniquely relevant representative body on all matters relating to pain. It aims to promote education, training, research and development in all fields of pain.

The Society is involved in all aspects of pain and its management through the work of the Council, various Committees, Special Interest Groups and Working Parties and via its publications, Annual Scientific Meeting and educational seminars.

British Pain Society PAIN:LESS Campaign

The British Pain Society aims to make pain visible and to treat it better. Pain is the most common reason that people attend their GP and affects 1 in 4 people.

Persistent pain can be a major source of suffering for many and can present in many ways, for example after road traffic accidents, burns and war injuries. Pain also occurs with illnesses such as cancer, arthritis and back problems. Pain is not visible.

Outwardly people may look 'normal' but are left with life-long severe pain that can affect their mood, relationships with family and friends and their ability to work or relax. We strive to help these people.

For more information please contact Dylan Taylor on Dylan@britishpainsociety.org or 0207 269 7843.