Protocols and Care Pathways

The Protocols and Care Pathways database on the National electronic Library for Health (NeLH) supports the work of the Changing Workforce Programme and National Bookings Programme of the NHS Modernisation Agency by providing an integrated national point of access for sharing and disseminating clinical protocols and integrated care pathways. These tools and methods have a recognised role in NHS modernisation and National Service Frameworks, among the know-how resources which are needed to deliver increasingly consistent, coordinated, multidisciplinary and patient-centred healthcare.

Accessed via NeLH (http://www.nelh.nhs.uk/carepathways/) the Care Pathways Database provides information with contact details for over 2,000 care pathways currently in use or in preparation in over 200 NHS organizations. Full-text care pathway definitions can be included in the database and nearly 200 of these are currently available for browsing and downloading. This service has been commended by the Department of Health and Modernisation Agency as a tool for ‘assisted wheel re-invention’, enabling locally validated know-how to be shared and disseminated across the service.

The Care Pathways Know-How Zone provides guidance, resources and literature references on best practice for designing, developing and implementing integrated care pathways.

On the site there is also Department of Health guidance explaining the role of protocols and care pathways within the NHS Plan: What is Protocol-Based Care? The guidance details among other things:

- A step-by-step guide to developing protocols
- Where to get more help and information
- Information sheets to help: clinicians; patients; workforce; clinical governance; the Board.
- Sample protocols including one for dementia care.
OT Seeker

OT Seeker is a database that contains abstracts of systematic reviews and randomized controlled trials relevant to occupational therapy. Trials have been critically appraised and rated to assist the user to evaluate their validity and interpretability. These ratings will help you to judge the quality and usefulness of trials for informing clinical interventions.

The database is managed through the University of Queensland in Australia, and can be accessed via [http://www.otseeker.com/](http://www.otseeker.com/)

Lithium for Alzheimer's Disease

The NeLH Hitting the Headlines service dealt with the *Daily Mail* headline (30 March 2004) that claimed ‘Breakthrough: first drug that actually reverses Alzheimer’s’.

Go to [http://www.nelh.nhs.uk/hth/lithium.asp](http://www.nelh.nhs.uk/hth/lithium.asp) to read the full analysis of what the research actually said, compared to how the media interpreted it.

CHAI and CSCI

On 1 April 2004 the Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection (CHAI) and the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) formally came into being, superceding the Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) and the National Care Standards Commission which will cease to exist. Find out more about these new bodies on their respective websites:

Current Awareness

Click on the links to see the full-text where available. You will need your Athens password for access.

ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE


BI-POLAR DISORDER


COGNITIVE BEHAVIOURAL THERAPY

DEMENTIA


Sara Whittaker – Knowledge Services Manager
CNWL, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LA
Tel: 020 8846 6876 Fax: 020 8746 5559 E-mail sara.whittaker@nhs.net
**DEPRESSION**


**EATING DISORDERS**


**ELECTROCONVULSIVE THERAPY**


**EVIDENCE BASED HEALTH CARE**


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Sara Whittaker – Knowledge Services Manager  
CNWL, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, London, W2 6LA  
Tel: 020 8846 6876 Fax: 020 8746 5559 E-mail sara.whittaker@nhs.net


FACILITIES MANAGEMENT


FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT


MENTAL HEALTH


Tyrer, P. (commentator) (2004). The risk of suicide after deliberate self harm was significant and persistent over the long term. Evidence-Based Medicine 9(2) p. 59. Available online via BMJ Journals.

MENTAL HEALTH, childhood and adolescence


**MENTAL HEALTH, older adults**


Schneider, L.S. (commentator) (2004). Venlafaxine offers no benefit over sertraline and is less well tolerated in depressed nursing home residents. *Evidence-Based Mental Health* 7(2) p. 47. Available online via BMJ Journals.

**PERSONALITY DISORDER**


**PHARMACOLOGY**


POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER


PSYCHIATRY


PSYCHOLOGY


PSYCHOSIS


PSYCHOTHERAPY

SCHIZOPHRENIA


**SUBSTANCE MISUSE**


Kirby, K.N.; Petry, N.M. (2004). Heroin and cocaine abusers have higher discount rates for delayed rewards than alcoholics or non-drug-using controls. *Addiction* 99(4) p. 461-471. Available online via EBSCOhost EJS.


**SUICIDE**


