



Chartered Society  
of Physiotherapy

Rehabilitation, recovery  
and reducing health inequity:

# Easing the pain





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# Recommendations

- September 2024





# England

## Department of Health and Social Care

- Develop a cross-Government strategy to reduce health inequities
- Update the NHS Constitution to include a commitment to reducing the gap in healthy life expectancy with rehabilitation embedded as a key solution
- Provide long-term funding streams for rehabilitation services to tackle health inequities.





# England

## NHS England

- Hold systems to account for delivering NHSE policy commitments to improve access to rehabilitation to address health inequality, including implementation of the intermediate care framework
- Enable this by committing to expansion of the rehabilitation workforce in the next iteration of the [NHS Long Term Workforce Plan](#)
- Endorse the [Community Rehabilitation Best Practice Standards](#)

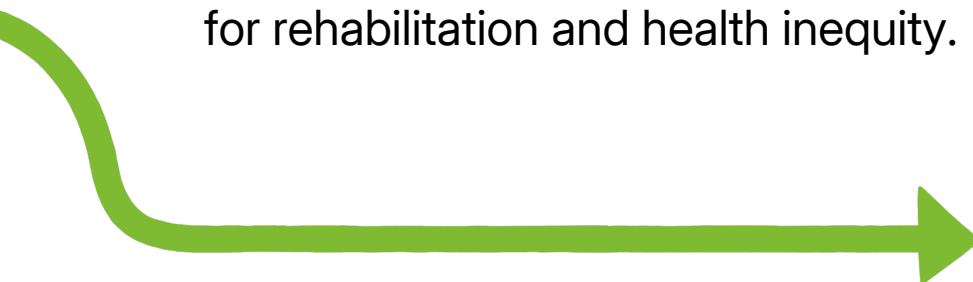




# England

## Integrated Care Boards

- Commit to measurably reducing the gap in healthy life expectancy by 2030, including through improvements in access to rehabilitation in line with current policy
- Ensure rehabilitation is part of data improvement plans
- Strengthen leadership and accountability for rehabilitation and health inequity.





# England

## Health and Wellbeing Boards

- Adopt outcome measures for access to rehabilitation to reduce the gap in healthy life expectancy by 2030
- Support local partnerships between the local NHS, local authorities, voluntary and fitness sectors.





# England

## Rehabilitation/AHP Leads

- Use [Community Rehabilitation Best Practice Standards](#) and audit tools
- Work with service leads to identify priorities for redesigning to improve access to under-served groups identified in the [Core20PLUS5](#) approach
- Adopt the Office for Health, Improvement and Disparities Allied [Health Professionals Health inequalities guide](#)





# Scotland

## Scottish Government

- Ensure that addressing health inequalities is enshrined in Health and Social Care legislation and specified in implementation plans of the Rehabilitation framework
- Adopt the 'Right to Rehabilitation' in any adoption of human rights into Scottish law.







# Scotland

## Health Boards and Public Health Scotland

- Commit to extending community rehabilitation services to address health inequalities
- Appoint rehabilitation leads with strategic accountability to drive quality improvement
- Endorse [Community Rehabilitation Best Practice Standards](#)





# Scotland

## Health and Social Care Partnerships

- Commit to targets to reduce health inequity
- Improve rehabilitation data systems
- Appoint rehabilitation leads to develop services and drive quality improvements.





# Scotland

## Rehabilitation/AHP Leaders

- Use [Community Rehabilitation Best Practice standards](#) to deliver on the ambitions of the rehabilitation framework and the [Rehabilitation and Recovery: A Once for Scotland Person-Centred Approach to Rehabilitation in a Post-COVID Era](#)
- Work across primary, acute, social care and third sectors.





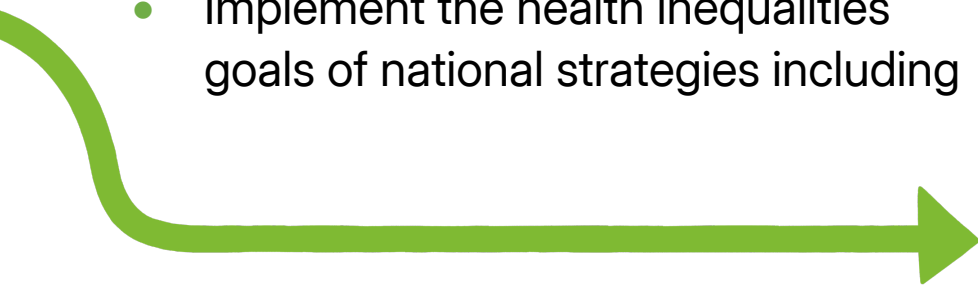
# Wales

## Welsh Government

- Consolidate commitments and measures to tackle health inequalities in one delivery plan to improve accountability
- Commission an equality assessment of rehabilitation services
- Ensure arrangements are in place to improve data to support health equity
- Implement the health inequalities goals of national strategies including

[Race Equality Action Plan: An Anti-Racist Wales, LGBTQ+ Action Plan for Wales](#) and the commitments in [The Quality Statement for women and girls' health](#)

- Ensure future rehabilitation quality statements and frameworks prioritise equity
- Work with external stakeholders to deliver the recommendations of [Mind the gap: what's stopping change? The cost-of-living crisis and the rise in inequalities in Wales](#)





# Wales

## Health Boards

- Endorse [Community Rehabilitation Best Practice Standards for Wales](#)
- Implement the standards and the principles of [A Healthier Wales](#) to ensure that appropriate rehabilitation space is available across primary, secondary, and community settings, making rehabilitation as accessible as possible to all communities.





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# Wales

## Regional Partnership Boards and Public Service Boards

- Use integrated care funding to encourage collaboration and tackle health inequalities.





# Northern Ireland

## Executive

- Advocate for a Right to Rehabilitation is included in the NI Assembly Programme for Government, ensuring it is integrated into the outcome framework for addressing inequality and discrimination in Northern Ireland.





# Northern Ireland

## Department of Health

- Ensure the ongoing implementation of [Health and Wellbeing 2026: delivering together](#), including the commitment to invest in HSC community development resources to enable social inclusion and tackle health inequalities
- Endorse the [Community Rehabilitation Best Practice standards for Northern Ireland](#)
- Advocate for the development of a framework to deliver Community Rehabilitation Services in Northern Ireland.







# Northern Ireland

## Integrated Care Systems

- As Integrated Care Systems are established they must ensure that at all levels of planning rehabilitation services are developed to address the specific needs of under-served groups in the population and address health inequity, with outcome measures relating to this
- Advocate for the inclusion of representation for rehabilitation services within the governance structures of the new Integrated Care Systems.

