

Haemophilia Chartered Physiotherapists Association

The HCPA consists of chartered specialist physiotherapists with an interest in the physiotherapy management of people with Haemophilia and other bleeding disorders. This group was initially established to provide support and networking opportunities for individuals in the field and to help others new to the specialty. Over the years it has developed to become an exciting forum for new ideas and ways of working, enabling research and promotion of physiotherapy as key component in the MDT management of Haemophilia.

HCPA Education/ Continuing Professional Development

The annual Physiotherapy educational meeting and HCPA AGM, funded by an educational grant from Bayer Healthcare, were held in Birmingham in February 2013. Now in its seventh year, it continues to be a full and productive programme, with record numbers attending this years meeting.

With the heightened awareness of the importance of physiotherapy assessment and 'joint scoring', the theme of this years annual meeting was a training day on the Haemophilia Joint Health Score (HJHS) tool. Pamela Hilliard and Nic Zourikian, members of the International Prophylaxis Study Group (IPSG) who helped develop the tool, were invited to facilitate the day.

In the weeks prior to the meeting, attendees were given online access to the HJHS tool. This allowed collection of questions, queries and practical issues that were then addressed by the facilitators. The day focused on the clinical application of the HJHS in children and how it may be used in the adult population. It was an extraordinarily successful day, with participants' feedback being very positive. We were very lucky to have 4 patients - based in the Birmingham centres - who volunteered their time to be models for the day.

Subsequently, further issues arising from clinical use were addressed in two separate North/South meetings later in the year. It is anticipated that a further follow up Q&A will happen at the 2014 educational meeting. We hope that this peer support network will facilitate successful UK collection of this information and improve patients' long-term musculoskeletal health.

Haemophilia Physiotherapists continue to be represented on a national level in the UKHCDO Clinical Outcomes Group and Musculoskeletal Working Party, as well as the Haemophilia Alliance meetings, and advising on patient education information programmes by Industry providers. The HCPA is also a represented member of the National CRG for Haemophilia.

Paul McLaughlin
Chairman, Haemophilia Chartered Physiotherapist's Association
September 2013