



# Effective Multidisciplinary working

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## What is an MDT

- Multiple disciplines
  - Exploring problems outside of professionals' usual scope
  - Reach joint solutions & understanding of complex needs
  - Establish who are the most appropriate clinician/s to follow up/review
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- Uses knowledge and skills of the whole team
  - Best practice
  - Across service providers
  - Meet regularly to discuss and agree treatment plans and management

## NICE Guidance

- Include healthcare professionals and social care practitioners with expertise in MND, and staff who see people in their own homes
- Carry out regular assessments at the MDT clinic, usually every 2-3 months, to assess symptoms and needs
- Ensure effective communication and co-ordination between all healthcare professionals and social care practitioners involved in the person's care, and their family members and carers as appropriate
- Provide co-ordinated care for those who cannot attend the clinic, according to the persons needs

## MDT members and disciplines

- Neurologist
- Specialist Nurse
- Dietitian
- Physiotherapist
- Occupational therapist
- Respiratory psychologist or healthcare professional who can assess respiratory function
- Speech and language therapist
- Healthcare professional with expertise in palliative care

## Suggested additions

- Clinical psychology and neuropsychology
- Social care
- Counselling
- Respiratory ventilation services
- Specialist palliative care
- Gastroenterology
- Orthotics
- Wheelchair services
- Assistive technology
- Alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) services
- Community neurological care teams

## MDT Action points

- Weight, diet, nutritional and fluid intake, feeding and swallowing
- Muscle problems, such as weakness, stiffness and cramps
- Physical function, including mobility and activities of daily living
- Speech and communication
- Cough effectiveness
- Saliva problems, such as drooling of saliva and thick, tenacious saliva
- Respiratory function, respiratory symptoms and non invasive ventilation (NIV)
- Pain and other symptoms, such as constipation
- Cognition and behaviour
- Psychological support needs
- Social care needs
- End of life care needs
- Information and support needs for the person and their family members and/or carers

## The benefits

- For people with MND
  - Increased survival time
  - Improved quality of life
  - Fewer unplanned hospital admissions, shorter stays
  - Access to support
  - Opportunities to discuss issues
  - Continuity
  - Fewer delayed referrals
  - Access to a wide range of service
- Benefits for professionals
  - Openness, with understanding & mutual respect of roles
  - Increased cross boundary working & improved communication
  - Development of support networks
  - Development of MDT teaching & education
  - Individual professional development & learning
  - Access to a wide range of professional expertise

## Benefits to the service

- Cost effective ways of working
- Reduced duplication
- Development of support networks
- Minimised gaps in service
- Staff development
- Enhanced relationships with other disciplines



## Function of the MDT

- Identify a key worker for each person with MND
- Information governance
  - Give person with MND information about the MDT
  - Locally agreed information governance procedures
- Conduct regular MDT assessments
- Develop robust systems for communication
- Review activity
- Ongoing professional development
- Sustaining the MDT

What next?

- Gaps in service
- Identify needs
- Risks
- Benefits
- Business case / SBAR report
- Don't give up – things take time!