

Looking Forward : Specialist Rehabilitation Services in Ireland How should these services be developed and delivered?

Syndicate Session 3 – Prosthetic, Orthotic and Limb Absence Rehabilitation - A Multidisciplinary Approach

In this presentation members of the POLAR team will give an overview of the complexity of prosthetic rehabilitation. There are many misconceptions regarding prosthetic rehabilitation: some believing that it is merely a “Limb Fitting” function. This presentation will demonstrate that it requires much more than that to achieve good outcomes for patients.

The presentation will explain the patient pathway from referral, through assessment and prescription, and on to the active rehabilitation phase. We will also refer to our outcomes data and the Key Performance Indicators.

We will use case comparison in order to illustrate the individualisation of rehabilitation programmes.

At present in Ireland there is significant variation in access to consultant led prosthetic rehabilitation. We, as the national service, believe that all patients who have need of the service should have equal access and we will refer to the efforts we are currently making towards this end.

The National Rehabilitation Hospital is in strategic partnership with a prosthetic and orthotic provider and we will discuss how this came about, how it is managed and what it means for the patients.

It is not possible in the space of this presentation to discuss in depth all aspects of the POLAR programme and we will be concentrating on Lower Limb rehabilitation. We also offer Upper Limb Service and Orthotic services. It should be remembered that for some people referred to the POLAR service prosthetic provision may not be appropriate and rehabilitation then focuses on maximising function POLAR presenters:

Chaired by: Nuala Tierney, Retired Head of Occupational Therapy, NRH

Speakers

- Dorothy Gibney, POLAR Programme Manager (Slides 1 – 3)
- Iain Briggs, Senior Prosthetist, Ability Matters (Slides 5 – 18)
- Mary O’Colmain, Senior Occupational Therapist (Slides 20 – 22)
- Dr Andrew Hanrahan, Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine (Slides 24 -26)
- Dorothy Gibney (Slides 27 – 30)