

Specialist Rehabilitation Services for Ireland: Connect – Reflect – Impact

Friday 5th December 2025 - Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

Programme at a Glance

Connect - Reflect - Impact

**Strengthening our Connections; Reflecting on what works well and how we can improve;
Enhancing patient pathways, outcomes and experience**

The conference is an excellent opportunity for all those in the healthcare sector who have an interest in, or are involved in service planning, provision, integration, and developing specialist rehabilitation services in hospitals and in the community to connect, share insights and explore initiatives for developing rehabilitation services for Ireland. The conference will:

- Focus expertise and harness energy in developing fit-for-purpose specialist rehabilitation services for Ireland
- Discuss the best use of available resources to provide quality, efficient, cost-effective rehabilitation services in an evolving healthcare environment
- Explore how service users can access the appropriate services for their individual rehabilitation needs when, where and how they need them
- Consider ways to strengthen the infrastructure supporting the provision of specialist rehabilitation on a national, regional and community basis, to optimise care pathways, sustainable outcomes and patient & family experience
- Help foster collaborative practices among all relevant stakeholders
- Provide an update on the 'Rehabilitation 2030' global initiative launched by the World Health Organization

Overview of the Conference Programme

Plenary 1 - Getting Rehabilitation Right

Setting the Scene: World Health Organization – Update on WHO initiative **Rehabilitation 2030**

The Irish Story So Far: Delivering and Developing Rehabilitation Services for the National Population: what we have achieved to date; what's working well; 'where to from here' for neurorehabilitation and other specialist rehabilitation services.

Plenary 2 - Rehabilitation Networks and Integrated Care

Specialist Rehabilitation for Ireland - Putting the pieces of the jigsaw together: Reflecting on our vision for integrated rehabilitation services. Discussing the need to expand specialist rehabilitation infrastructure and resources at national, regional and community levels to improve the pathways and continuum of care for those with rehabilitation needs from post-acute to community-based services.

Plenary 3 - Supporting People with Rehabilitation Needs to Community Reintegration

Rehabilitation Closer to Home: this session will include: Community Reintegration - a Canadian Exemplar; The Vital Role of Support Services in Successful Community Reintegration; the National Tertiary Centre for Complex Specialist Rehabilitation – looking to the future, and Ireland's response to WHO Rehabilitation 2030.

Blue Skies Thinking: exploring ways to enhance integrated care in rehabilitation that will impact and improve patient pathways, outcomes and experience.

Lived Experience Expertise: A personal story of a rehabilitation journey will be included in each of the three plenary sessions

Continued....

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09.00am – 11.10am Plenary 1: Getting Rehabilitation Right

Setting the Scene

- **Shirin Kiani**, World Health Organization, WHO Regional Office for Europe.
Rehabilitation 2030 - Coordinated global actions to strengthen rehabilitation in health systems

The Irish Story so Far

- **Ciara Lynch**, Programme Manager, Neurorehabilitation Strategy and Managed Clinical Rehabilitation Network, HSE
The Neurorehabilitation Network in Operation
- **Orla McEvoy**, Senior Occupational Therapist, former Specialist Rehabilitation Coordinator
Managed Clinical Networks – Enablers for Success, Insights from a Scoping Review

Personal Experience of Rehabilitation

- **Caoimhe Campbell** - Transitioning from Paediatric Rehabilitation Services to Adult Rehabilitation Services and Beyond

Rehabilitation, the Big Picture - Panel Discussion: Global and National Contexts, moderated by Prof Anne Hendry

Tony Canavan, REO HSE West and North West; **Andy Phillips**, REO HSE South West; **Aisling Heffernan**, IHA Manager HSE Dublin South & Wicklow; **Sheena Caldwell**, Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

11.30am – 1.00pm Plenary 2: Rehabilitation Networks and Integrated Care

Personal Experience of Rehabilitation

- **Eoghan Gorman** - Reflecting on the Personal Cost of Disconnected Care

Reflecting on our Vision for Integrated Care in Rehabilitation

- **Prof Áine Carroll**, Prof of Integrated Care and Improvement Science / Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine, UCD / NRH
Integrated Care in Rehabilitation – What should it look and feel like?
- **Mr Keith Synnott**, Consultant Orthopaedic, Trauma and Spinal Surgeon
Trauma Care and Essential Rehabilitation Pathways
- **Tanya King**, CEO Peamount Healthcare; **Dr Eugene Wallace**, Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine
Developing Specialist Inpatient Rehabilitation Services

Panel Discussion: Networks and Integration – putting the jigsaw together, moderated by Prof Anne Hendry

Keynote speakers above will be joined on the Panel by Magdalen (Mags) Rogers, Executive Director, Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI)

1.50pm – 4.15pm Plenary 3: Supporting People with Rehabilitation Needs to Community Reintegration

Personal Experience of Rehabilitation

- **Paul McNeive**, Author and Motivational Speaker: When Integration Works Well – Small Steps to Long Term Success

Community Reintegration – a Canadian Exemplar

- **Brian Dunne**, CEO, PHSS – Medical and Complex Care in Community

Rehabilitation Closer to Home - Panel Discussion and Q&A: The vital role of support services in successful community reintegration, moderated by Prof Anne Hendry – Healthcare leaders from a range of services providing support to people with acquired and congenital rehabilitation needs to reintegrate to family and community life

The National Tertiary Centre for Complex Specialist Rehabilitation Services – NRH Looking to the Future

- **Dr Cara McDonagh**, Medical Director NRH Spinal Cord System of Care Programme, Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine,
Sharing the highlights so far and looking to a future of collaboration, innovation and integration

Ireland’s Response to Rehab 2030

- **Dr Colm Henry**, Chief Clinical Officer, HSE

Blue Skies Thinking - Panel Discussion and Q&A: Keynote speakers above will be joined on the Panel by Dr Emer Ahern, Consultant Trauma and Orthogeriatrician, and **Dr Rosie Gowran**, HSE Clinical Lead, National Clinical Programme for People with Disability

4.10pm Poster awards and Closing remarks

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Keynote speakers

Keynote speakers will be joined for Panel Discussions and Q&A Sessions throughout the day by representatives from the Regional Health Authorities, healthcare leaders from national and international health systems, CEOs from a range of Support Services in the Community and people with lived experience of rehabilitation services.

*** The full Conference Programme will be published soon...**

Knowledge-to-Practice Sessions

An optional session is included in the conference registration fee. This will be held at the National Rehabilitation Hospital on Saturday, 6th December and will include a site visit and clinically relevant knowledge-to-practice presentations. This session will take place from 9.30am – 12.30pm.

Please indicate on the Conference Registration Form If you are interested in attending.

For more information visit <https://www.nrh.ie/conference2025/>

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