



## Follow-up and continuing care

# Motor and neurological follow-up assessment

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### Statement of the standard

Standardised assessment of neurological status and motor development is conducted in the first two years and repeated at transition to school.



### For parents and family

- Parents are informed about and invited by healthcare professionals to attend follow-up programme including screening for neuromotor developmental difficulties.
- Parents are involved in early intervention, e.g., family-centred care.
- Parents receive standardised feedback about the results of their child's neuromotor health screening in a language that is accessible to them.
- Children identified at risk are offered referral to the appropriate healthcare service and intervention is started in those infants with suspected abnormal neuromotor findings and motor delay (with parental consent).



### For neonatal unit, hospital, and follow-up team

- A guideline on the follow-up programme including neuromotor developmental health is available and regularly updated.
- Follow-up programme after discharge including neuromotor developmental health is funded and supported.
- Follow-up rates are continuously monitored.
- Neuromotor developmental health outcomes are used for staff feedback.
- Training on standardised neuromotor assessments is ensured.
- Appropriate assessment facilities are provided.

### Benefits

Short-term benefits: N/A

Long-term benefits:

- Better guidance for families
- Reliable and early (before two years of age) identification of those who will develop significant neuromotor problems (Cerebral Palsy, CP)
- Early referral to community services
- Facilitated early multidisciplinary approach to management and early intervention for those who are in need of further input
- Identification (at pre-school and school age) of those who develop motor difficulties in the absence of CP
- Optimised social and cognitive development
- Provides feedback to peri- and neonatal healthcare providers with regards to monitoring and improving quality of care
- Promoted and improved healthy life style by encouragement of motor activities



### For healthcare professionals

- A guideline on follow-up programme including serial neuromotor assessment in the first two years (e.g. 3-6, 12, 24 months corrected age) and repeated at transition to school is adhered to by all healthcare professionals.
- Children with diagnosis of CP: from 12 months corrected age onwards at each follow-up appointment standardised assessment of CP according to Surveillance of Cerebral Palsy in Europe (SCPE) criteria, and from 24 months corrected age onwards assessment of functional level of gross motor function, manual ability and communication is ensured.
- Training on standardised neuromotor assessment throughout infancy to school age (e.g. General Movement Assessment at 3-4 months corrected age) is attended by all responsible healthcare professionals.



### For health service

- A national guideline on follow-up programme including neuromotor assessment is available and regularly updated.
- A follow-up service including neuromotor developmental health is specified, funded and monitored.

