



# National clinical guideline for stroke Third edition

Prepared by the Royal College of Physicians Intercollegiate Stroke Working Party  
co-chaired by Professor Derick Wade and Dr Tony Rudd

The third edition of these world-renowned stroke guidelines provides the reader with the most comprehensive coverage of stroke care to date, encompassing the whole of the stroke pathway from acute care through to longer-term rehabilitation and secondary prevention. It informs health professionals about what should be delivered to stroke patients and how this should be organised, with the aim of improving the quality of care for everyone who has a stroke, regardless of age, gender, type of stroke, or location.

The recommendations have been completely revised to include the most up-to-date evidence published since the last edition in 2004.

## New features included in this guideline

- Recommendations from the new guideline by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the initial management of acute stroke and transient ischaemic attack.
- A new guide for commissioners of stroke services to help ensure that a population receives an integrated high-quality service.
- An updated information booklet for stroke patients and their carers\*.
- A section on mental capacity and how it influences stroke management.
- Updated sections, on acute care, rehabilitation, longer-term care, and secondary prevention.
- Profession-specific concise guides for nurses, dietitians and therapy professionals.
- A driving section (in relation to UK driving law).
- A laminated concise guide for convenience.

The guidelines are written in a clear and holistic way. They are an essential resource for everyone involved in stroke care, prevention and rehabilitation, as well as commissioners of stroke services, patients and carers.

## Contents

- Commissioning
- Systems underlying stroke
- Acute-phase care
- Secondary prevention
- Recovery phase – rehabilitation
- Late phase

*\*Care after stroke or transient ischaemic attack: information for patients and their carers*

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