WEBSITE REVIEW

The National Library for Health (NLH)

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The National Library for Health (NLH) is home to a wealth of information and knowledge which is helping to improve patient care. The library's comprehensive resources provide the latest research evidence, guidelines and other specialist information which staff can use to support healthcare decisions and treatment recommendations. Accessible round the clock, staff can easily find the information they need on a particular topic or speciality as they navigate the library's services which include a Q&A facility and access to professional journals.

As the volume and quality of health information and knowledge now available is vast and varied, it can take a lot of time to find the actual information that is required. The NLH saves time and trouble by bringing together trusted, authoritative quality information in one place which is readily accessible. It can also act as a key tool in supporting professional development and can be accessed by patients, providing them with the opportunity to become more involved in their own healthcare.

The NLH aims to close the gap between electronic and traditional library services, allowing seamless access to information in whatever format and location it is held. The NLH website provides a range of specialist libraries that identify the best evidence on a range of the major healthcare topics, as well as links to high-quality resources such as the Cochrane Library. NHS staff can access bibliographic databases such as Medline and CINAHL (Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature), as well as over 1500 full text journals and a collection of electronic books. The site also offers a search engine, a Q&A facility aimed at staff working in primary care, and news and current awareness services.

The NLH is part of National Health Service (NHS) **Connecting for Health's** 'Knowledge, process and safety programme' which aims to make better use of information in the NHS. It is being closely integrated with the development and implementation of the 'National Programme for IT' systems and services.

NLH's Emergency Care Specialist Library

The National Library for Health's Emergency Care Specialist Library has recently published a clinical library of guidelines in emergency care, in association with the Clinical Effectiveness Committee of British Association for Emergency Medicine (BAEM) and the Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Liaison Committee. National guidelines will all be made available via this site. The aim of the library is to cover the whole of emergency care regardless of setting, so users may find a guideline developed for ambulance staff or emergency departments along with the appropriate Prodigy or Orange Book guideline (aimed at primary care) when browsing or searching on some topics. Those undertaking new roles such as emergency care practitioners may find this particularly useful. The index of guidelines covers almost the complete range of emergency care conditions. All the guidelines have been validated by appropriate national organisations. When a national guideline was not available then high quality local guidelines have been utilised. The next stage will be to refine the library so that its content has an increasing quality and relevance.

To accompany the guidelines a section of evidence is being developed. By utilising this section, users will be able to explore the existing evidence behind a guideline. This will be particularly useful for the more unusual cases where the guidelines may not be exactly suited to the clinical scenario. Similarly it will help those who are adapting national guidelines for local use.

The second major component of the library – 'managing emergency care' is a series of briefings about how emergency care is delivered and organised. Each briefing has a two page summary of the topic written by an expert and peer reviewed. Within the text and at the end, there is a large number of hyperlinks linking to more detailed information, evidence and case histories. The briefings cover a wide range of topics on organising emergency care, including how to achieve the 4 hour emergency department target, managing hospital discharges, bed management, emergency primary care organisation, organisation of ambulance services.

Other sections include information on prescribing, major incidents, CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) and contact details of emergency care organisations. Although designed primarily for a British audience, the content will be applicable to many other countries.

<http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/default.aspx>
<http://libraries.nelh.nhs.uk/emergency/>

Partial screen shot showing an example of the Clinical Library's contents

Search

Emergency Care

Home

News

Events

▼ Clinical Library

▶ Organisational and Other Issues

▶ Selected Symptoms

▶ Respiratory

▼ Neurological

Meningitis

Subarachnoid Haemorrhage

Seizures

Bells Palsy

Intracranial Haemorrhage

Cord Compression

Stroke

Transient Ischaemic Attacks

Epilepsy

Wernicke Korsakoff Syndrome

Migraine

▶ Cardiovascular

You searched for the category: Clinical Library > Neurological > Stroke

TOTAL RECORDS MATCHED: 19

Guidance and Pathways (3)	Evidence (16)	Reference (0)	Education/CPD (0)	Patient Information
<u>Acute stroke in adults (orange book chapter)</u> Publisher: Kingston Primary Care Trust Publication Type: Care Guideline Link to full-text here, Portable document File / PDF.				
<u>Stroke</u> This guideline is concerned with the management of patients with acute upper limb stroke in the emergency department setting. This guideline has been developed by clinical effectiveness committee of the British Association for Emergency Medicine Publisher: Emergency Care Specialist Library, Central Manchester and Macclesfield Publication Type: Care Guideline Link to full-text here, Portable Document File / PDF.				
<u>Stroke / Cerebral bleeds</u> This guideline addresses the management of patients with suspected stroke and intracerebral haemorrhage of the JRCALC Clinical Practice Guidelines. These guidelines are for use by local clinicians and must ensure they are appropriate for their local requirements. Please click on the link to the full text of the guideline. Publisher: Emergency Care Specialist Library, Joint Royal Colleges Ambulance Publication Date: 31 Aug 2004				