

BACPAR have just published new “Clinical guidelines for the pre and postoperative physiotherapy management of adults with lower limb amputation”.

These are the second set of guidelines produced by BACPAR. The first entitled “Evidence based clinical guidelines for physiotherapy management of adults with lower limb prostheses” were published in 2003. These guidelines commence when the patient receives their first lower limb prosthesis and conclude when the patient is discharged from active treatment to a maintenance programme. The new guideline links to the first covering the period before prosthetic rehabilitation commences and considers what constitutes best practice in the physiotherapy management of patients with lower limb amputations.

Both sets of guidelines are a framework for best practice that all physiotherapists working in this clinical area should aspire to achieve as part of their professional responsibilities. They are also a readily available source of information. It is intended that they will assist in clinical decision making, adapting knowledge into practice and providing recommendations to ensure competence. For the experienced clinician, the guidelines can act as a reference to support and guide clinical practice, service provision and development.

Agreement about the effectiveness of interventions has been derived from consideration of research, expert opinion, patient and professional experience. The clinical guidelines were then endorsed by the CSP following a process of expert and peer review.

Copies are available from the CSP costing £5 for members and £10 for non-members.