Stroke care in

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

This report is for stroke survivors and their families

Based on patients treated between August - November 2017

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Glossary

Atrial fibrillation (AF) an abnormal heart beat which can result in the

formation of blood clots

Cognitive Screening A test to assess a patient's mental processes such

as memory and concentration.

Continence Plan A plan to help a patient increase their control over

bowel and bladder function

Malnourishment A condition which is caused by not having

enough of or the right nutrients.

Occupational Therapy Therapy to help patients relearn activities of

everyday life.

Physiotherapy Therapy to restore movement and function

Speech and Language Therapy Therapy to help patients recover from

communication or swallowing difficulties.

Thrombolysis The use of medicine to break down a blood clot.

Introduction to the SSNAP Easy Access Version Report

This is a **report** about a project called the

Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme. (SSNAP)

This information is written in a way that is **easy** to understand.

You may want someone to **help** you when you read this report.

What is SSNAP?

SSNAP measures stroke care. It does this to improve the quality of stroke care.

SSNAP collects information from hospitals about the care provided to stroke patients from the time they **arrive at hospital** up until **6 months after their stroke**.

This means that SSNAP can report on **both** the early stages of stroke care in **hospital** and later stages of care in the **community**.

The aim is that the information and results from the audit are used to **improve** care for stroke patients.

The report shows how well hospitals treated stroke patients.

The information is about the care given between **August - November 2017**.

This report can help people to talk about their **stroke care** with local hospitals. We will write this report every 4 months.

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) runs SSNAP.

NHS England and NHS Wales pay for SSNAP.

The **Stroke Working Party** guides SSNAP.

This includes

- people who work in stroke
- charities such as the Stroke Association
- stroke survivors

Thank you to

- Speakeasy, a charity based in Bury, which supports people with aphasia
- The South London Stroke Research Patient and Family Group
- The **stroke survivors** on the stroke working party

They helped to make this report **easy to read**.

For regional easy access version reports

https://www.strokeaudit.org/results/Clinical/Regional-Results

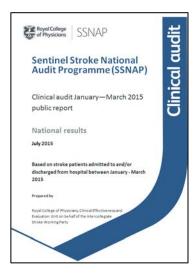
For more **detailed reports**

https://www.strokeaudit.org/results

For interactive maps

https://www.strokeaudit.org/results/Clinical-audit/Maps

Reports



Maps



How to read this report

This report gives information about 10 aspects of stroke care.

There are **standards** within each aspect of care.

Each hospital must do well in all standards.

In this report we explain:



What should be done?



How quickly it should be done?



Why it should be done?

National Summary

These boxes give a summary of national performance for each aspect of stroke care.

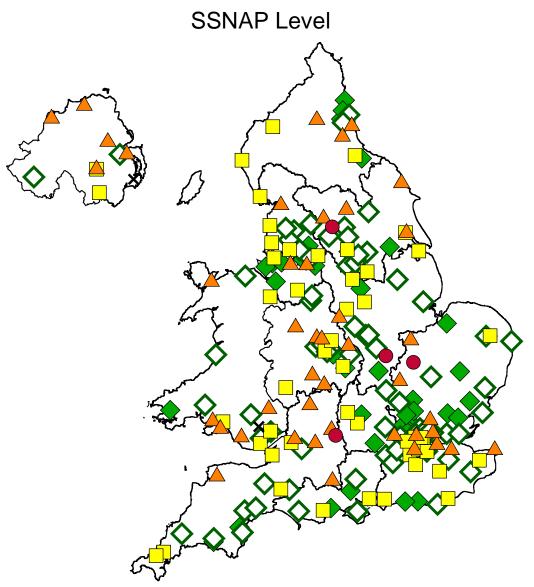
This box will highlight the aspects of care that are performing well.

This box will highlight the aspects of care where improvements are needed.

Understanding the results

National maps

These show how well hospitals have **performed in England**, **Wales**, and **Northern Ireland**.



Source: SSNAP Aug-Nov 2017

There is a **box** beside each map.

It shows which **shapes** are for each **level from A – E**.

A is the **best** level and E is the **worst**.

◆ A (90+)

♦ B (80-89)

□ C (75-79)

▲ D (65-74)

• E (<65)

★ Insufficient records

The black cross shows which hospitals did not submit information about enough of their patients to be included in the results for this period.

Shape	Level	Each area of care	
•	Α	Hospital meets highest standards for almost all patients	
♦	В		
	С		
_	D		
•	E	Hospital does not meet highest standards for many	
		patients	

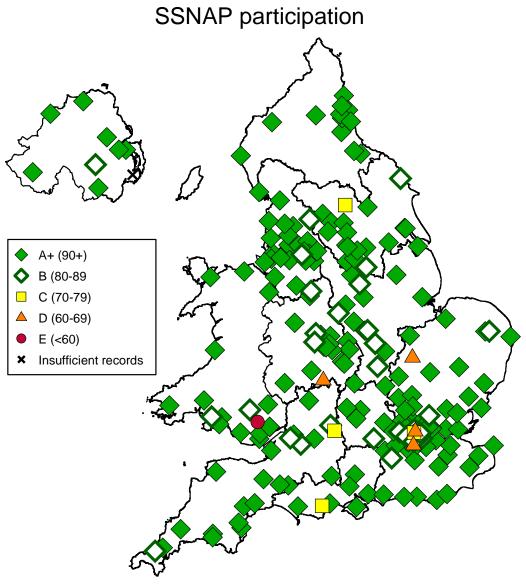
Hospitals included in this report

This report includes **28,698 stroke patients** admitted to hospital between **August - November 2017.**

228 hospitals in England, Wales and Northern Ireland are included in this report.

Most of these teams submitted more than **90% of their stroke patients to SSNAP**.

We want **all** hospitals to send in their information so that they can use the results to **improve care** for patients.



Source: SSNAP Aug-Nov 2017

1. Brain Scanning



What should be done?

All patients with stroke symptoms should have a brain scan



How quickly should this be done?

Patients who are **very sick** should have a scan **within 1 hour** of arriving at hospital.

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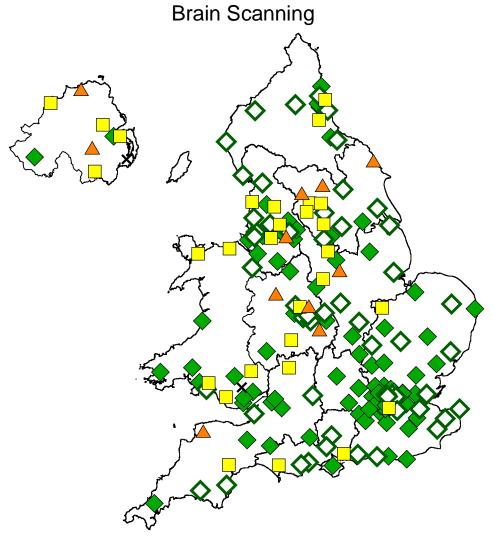
All patients should have a brain scan within 12 hours



Why should this be done?

To show the doctor what **treatment** the patient **needs**.

Fast treatment can reduce the damage caused by stroke.



Source: SSNAP Aug-Nov 2017 (Patient Centred)

National Summary

Stroke patients have better access to scanning than ever before.

Over 9/10 stroke patients are **scanned within 12 hours**.

Fewer stroke patients are scanned at **weekends** and at **night time** than during the week.

2. Stroke unit



What should be done?

Patients should get to a **stroke unit** very quickly.

Patients should spend at least **90% of their time** in hospital on a **stroke unit**.



How quickly should this be done?

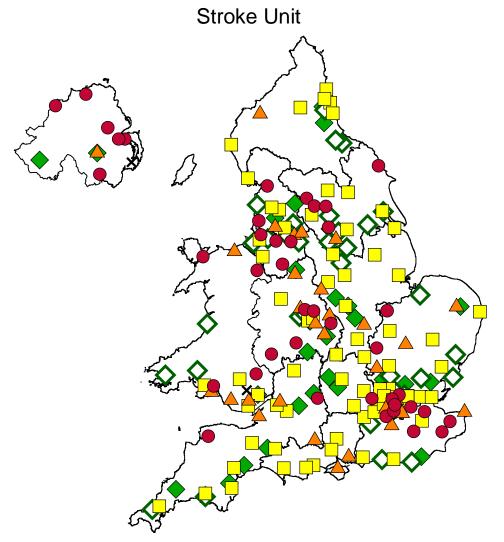
Patients should get to a stroke unit **within 4 hours** of arriving at hospital.



Why should this be done?

Stroke units give the **best care** to stroke patients.

This can save lives and reduce disability.



Source: SSNAP Aug-Nov 2017 (Patient Centred)

National Summary

Direct admission to a stroke unit is **very important**.

Almost all patients spend some of their time in hospital on a stroke unit.

Almost 2 out of 5 patients are not taken to a stroke unit immediately.

This needs to be **improved** urgently.

3. Clot Busting Treatment (Thrombolysis)



What should be done?

Between 15-20% of patients should receive a clot-busting drug.

Patients who have a stroke caused by a **clot** and who **get to hospital quickly** can be given this drug.

These patients should receive clot busting treatment at the earliest possible time after arriving at hospital.



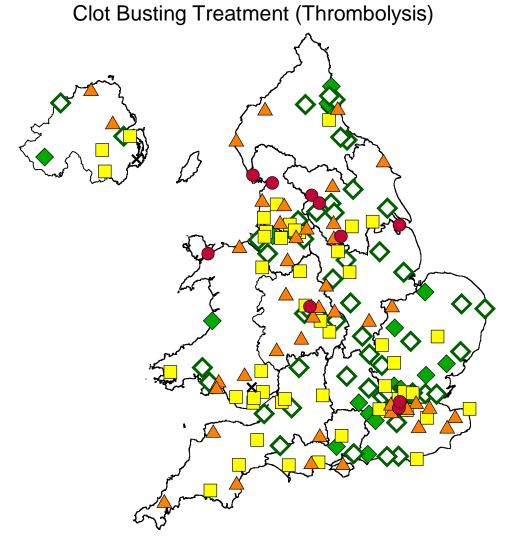
How quickly should this be done?

It should be given up to 4 and a half hours after a stroke.



Why should this be done?

Clot-busting drug treatment can reduce disability.



Source: SSNAP Aug-Nov 2017 (Patient Centred)

National Summary

4 out of 5 stroke patients who **should** be given **clot busting drugs** are given them.

This is **highe**r than nearly **every other country**.

Some hospitals do not provide this treatment at all times.

It often **takes too long** for patients to get to hospital and so it is too late for this treatment to be effective.

4. Specialist Assessments



What should be done?

Patients should

- see a stroke consultant
- see a stroke nurse
- be **screened** for swallow safety
- have a **swallow assessment** if needed



How quickly should this be done?

Within 4 hours: swallow screen

Within 1 day: stroke nurse and stroke consultant

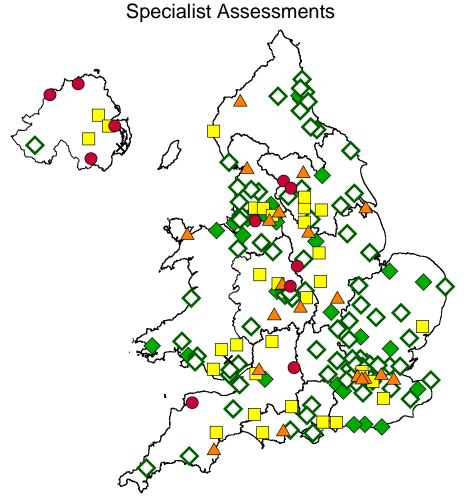
Within 3 days: swallow assessment



Why should this be done?

Stroke specialist professionals give patients the care they need. This will **improve their recovery**.

Swallow screening checks if **the patient can swallow food and drink safely** and therefore reduce the risk of choking.



Source: SSNAP Aug-Nov 2017 (Patient Centred)

National Summary

Hospitals are **performing well** in providing **swallow assessments** to patients who need them.

More patients are being provided with **swallow screenings** and **assessments** in recent months.

There are **too many** patients who are not being assessed to find out what kind of **swallowing** difficulties they have rapidly.

1 out of 5 patients are not seen by a stroke consultant within 24 hours of admission.

5. Occupational Therapy (OT)



What should be done?

All patients (who are well enough and need it) should get

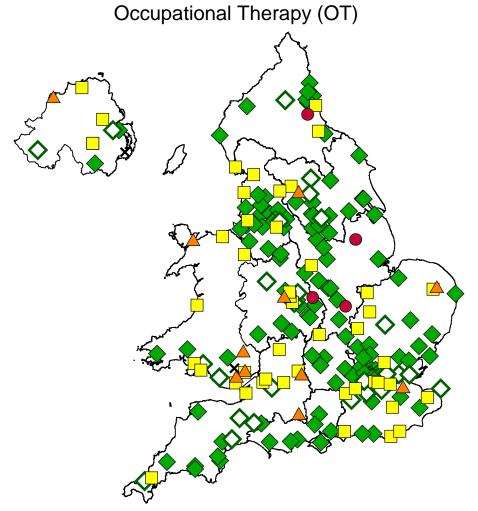
- at least 45 minutes of occupational therapy
- on at least 5 days a week
- for the duration of their stroke care.



Why should this be done?

Occupational therapy helps people to **re-learn everyday activities and skills** following a stroke.

This may include **tasks** such as getting dressed or **hobbies** such as painting.



Source: SSNAP Aug-Nov 2017 (Patient Centred)

National Summary

This aspect of care is being **performed well**.

Almost all stroke patients who need it are assessed by an occupational therapist during their hospital stay.

It is **encouraging** that so many patients are assessed at **weekends**.

Many patients needing an assessment do not receive one within 3 days.

More **minutes** of **therapy** should be given on more **days** to patients who **need** it.

6. Physiotherapy



What should be done?

All patients (who are well enough and need it) should get

- at least 45 minutes of physiotherapy
- on at least 5 days a week
- for the duration of their stroke care.

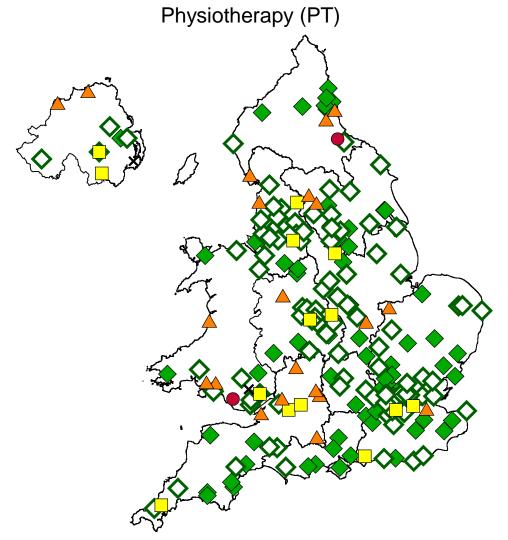


Why should this be done?

Physiotherapy helps people to **overcome or adapt to weakness** on one side of the body.

It also helps people to **improve** their **balance** and **movement**.

National Results for Physiotherapy



Source: SSNAP Aug-Nov 2017 (Patient Centred)

National Summary

This aspect of care is being **performed well**.

It is **encouraging** that so many patients are assessed at **weekends**.

More **minutes** of **therapy** should be given on more **days** to patients who **need** it.

7. Speech and Language Therapy



What should be done?

All patients (who are well enough and need it) should get

- at least 45 minutes of speech and language therapy
- on at least 5 days a week
- for the duration of their stroke care.



Why should this be done?

Speech and language therapy helps people to recover from communication problems following a stroke.

National Results for Speech and Language Therapy

Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)

Source: SSNAP Aug-Nov 2017 (Patient Centred)

National Summary

Most patients who **require** an **assessment** for **communication difficulties** receive one during their hospital stay.

Fewer patients are being **assessed** at **weekends** by **speech therapists** than the other therapies.

More **minutes** of **therapy** should be given on more **days** to patients who **need** it.

8. Team Working



What should be done?

Patients should

- see a stroke nurse
- be **assessed** if needed by all relevant therapists (for example a speech and language therapist)
- agree rehabilitation goals with the staff



How quickly should this be done?

Within 1 day: stroke nurse and at least 1 therapist

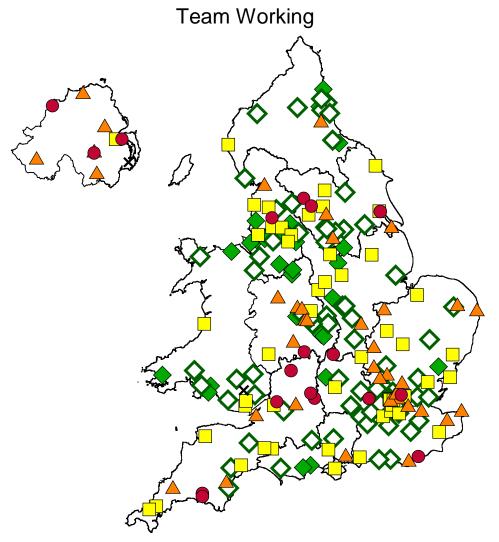
Within 3 days: all relevant therapists.

Within 5 days: all rehabilitation goals agreed



Why should this be done?

Each member of the **stroke team** can give patients the care that they need to **improve** their **recovery**.



Source: SSNAP Aug-Nov 2017 (Patient Centred)

National Summary

Nearly all patients who need it are assessed by a physiotherapist and occupational therapist within 3 days of admission to hospital.

More patients are agreeing **rehabilitation goals** within **5 days** than 1- 2 years ago.

1 out of 10 patients are not assessed by a speech therapist within 3 days.

9. Standards met by Discharge



What should be done?

If needed, before leaving hospital a patient should

- be **screened for nutrition** and seen by a dietitian
- have a continence plan drawn up. This should be done within 3 weeks of arriving at hospital
- be screened for mood and cognition



How quickly should this be done?

By discharge: nutrition screening

Within 3 weeks: continence plan

By discharge: mood screening



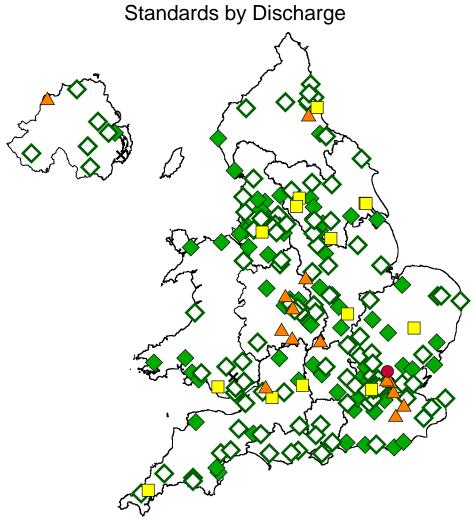
Why should this be done?

Nutrition screening checks if the patient is at **risk of** malnourishment.

Patients say **continence management** is one of the **most important** areas of care.

Mood screening identifies feeling of **distress** or **lack of confidence**.

Cognitive screening identifies difficulties **thinking**, **concentrating** or **remembering** after a stroke.



Source: SSNAP Aug-Nov 2017 (Patient Centred)

National Summary

There have been **consistent improvements** in these aspects of care as reported on SSNAP:

- continence planning
- mood and cognition screening
- assessments by dietitians

Too many hospitals are still failing to meet these standards for all patients.

There is **no excuse** for **not treating patients** in these important aspects of care.

10. Discharge Processes



What should be done?

When leaving hospital, patients should

- have received a joint health and social care plan
- be given the name of a person they can contact

Some patients may be well enough to leave hospital early.

These patients should be **provided with further rehabilitation** at home if they need it.

An **Early Supported Discharge (ESD)** team can provide this rehabilitation.

About 40% of patients could benefit from ESD.

Patients with an **irregular heartbeat** should be given **medication** to **prevent blood from clotting.**



Why should this be done?

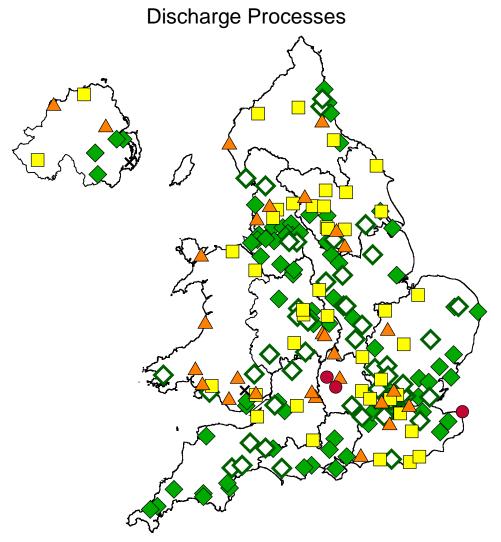
Health and social care services should work together in a way that best suits the needs of patients.

Rehabilitation in the community means getting **treatment** including **rehabilitation** in a **home environment**.

It can improve recovery.

Blood clotting medication **improves blood** flow.

It reduces the chance of another stroke occurring.



Source: SSNAP Aug-Nov 2017 (Patient Centred)

National Summary

There have been **improvements** in these aspects of care:

- joint health and social care planning
- giving patients and carers a named person to contact when leaving hospital

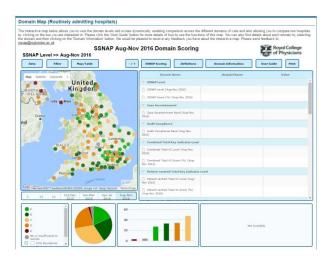
Almost all patients with an irregular heartbeat are given suitable medication.

Interactive Maps

You can view the information in this report using interactive maps on the internet.

To see the maps go to:

www.strokeaudit.org/results/Clinical-audit/maps



- These maps are easy to read
- They include all hospitals treating stroke patients in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland
- Results are also presented using graphs and pie charts
- The maps will be updated every 4 months with up to date results

These maps enable patients and carers to:



- Identify areas where care is good and where improvements are needed
- Compare aspects of stroke care within and across hospitals
- Compare hospitals' performance over time
- Search for specific information you are most interested in
- Save and print the information

Rising to the Challenge. SSNAP's Fourth Annual Report

You can view the SSNAP Annual Report on our website:

www.strokeaudit.org/AnnualReport

Rising to the Challenge The Fourth SSNAP Annual Report

Stroke care received between April 2016 to March 2017

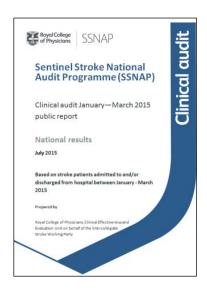


- This report is written by doctors
- It gives an overview of how good stroke care is across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- The information in this report is from **2015 and 2016**
- This report is **patient friendly**
- It uses patient experiences of stroke care
- The report uses maps and graphs to show information

For more detailed SSNAP reports go to:

www.strokeaudit.org/results

1) Public Report



- This report contains **national level results** across the stroke pathway.
- It compares national stroke results over time.
- The report has commentary from the doctor who leads SSNAP
- The report gives recommendations for improving stroke care
- The report has colour coded tables showing the results for each hospital

2) Summary Results

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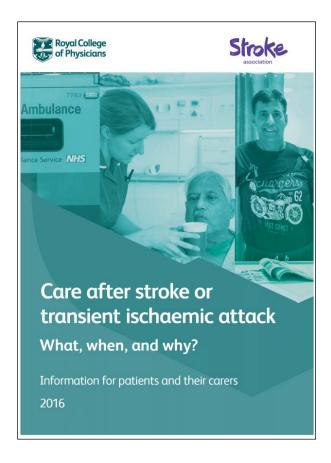
- This report gives a **summary of performance** for individual hospitals.
- It is a starting point for understanding how good a hospital is at treating stroke patients.
- Each aspect of stroke care is covered.
- Hospitals are given a level from A-E for each aspect of stroke care.

3) Full Results



- This is a **very detailed** report
- It contains national and hospital level results for every stroke measure collected by SSNAP
- It allows readers to look further into specific aspects of stroke care

Further information on stroke care for patients and carers



- This booklet is a shorter version of the 'National Clinical Guideline for Stroke' (2016).
- It is written for **stroke survivors and their carers** but is also useful for anyone who has an interest in stroke care and management.
- It gives information and advice on the care and treatment of adults
 after a stroke or TIA (mini stroke).
- It also has listings of **organisations and support groups** who can help stroke patients and their families or carers.
- The patient version of the **Guideline** is available here:
 https://www.strokeaudit.org/Guideline/Patient-Guideline.aspx

Useful contacts and websites

Stroke Association

Helpline: 0303 3033 100

Textphone: 18001 0303 3033 100

stroke.org.uk

info@stroke.org.uk

Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland

Advice Line: 0808 801 0899

www.chss.org.uk

adviceline@chss.org.uk

Northern Ireland Chest Heart & Stroke

Helpline: 028 9032 0184

www.nichs.org.uk mail@nichs.org.uk

Different Strokes (run by and for younger

stroke survivors)

Helpline: 0845 130 7172 www.differentstrokes.co.uk info@differentstrokes.co.uk

NHS Choices (Medical advice and information on health services)

NHS non-emergency number: 111

www.nhs.uk

Headway (Charity for people who have had a brain injury)

Helpline: 0808 800 2244 (Mon-Fri, 9am-

5pm)

www.headway.org.uk helpline@headway.org.uk

Brain and Spine Foundation

Helpline: 0808 808 1000 www.brainandspine.org.uk helpline@brainandspine.org.uk

Disabled Living Foundation

Helpline: 0300 999 0004 (Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm)

helpline@dlf.org.uk www.dlf.org.uk

Mind / Mind Cymru (England and Wales)

Infoline: 0300 123 3393

Text: 86463

info@mind.org.uk www.mind.org.uk

Niamh Mental Wellbeing (Northern Ireland

Association for Mental Health)

Enquiries: 028 9032 8474 info@niamhwellbeing.org www.niamhwellbeing.org

Scottish Association of Mental Health (SAMH)

0141 530 1000

enquire@samh.org.uk
www.samh.org.uk

Age UK

England: 0800 169 2081

Northern Ireland: 0808 808 7575

Scotland: 0800 4 70 80 90 Wales: 08000 223 444 www.ageuk.org.uk

Royal National Institute of Blind People

(RNIB)

Helpline: 0303 123 9999 helpline@rnib.org.uk www.rnib.org.uk

Alzheimer's Society (Information and support

on all types of dementia)
Helpline: 0300 222 1122
enquiries@alzheimers.org.uk

www.alzheimers.org.uk

We hope you found this report helpful and useful

There is more information about SSNAP on the Royal College of Physicians

website.

www.rcplondon.ac.uk/ssnap

If you have any questions about this report please contact the Stroke

Programme at the Royal College of Physicians:

Tel: **020 3075 1318** or **020 3075 1383**

Email: ssnap@rcplondon.ac.uk

We want to know.....

What do you think of this report? Have you found it useful?

Please email ssnap@rcplondon.ac.uk and let us know.