

## Package of Interventions for Rehabilitation

### BACKGROUND

#### **WHAT IS THE PACKAGE OF INTERVENTIONS FOR REHABILITATION?**

The Package of Interventions for Rehabilitation (PIR) will be a World Health Organization (WHO) resource containing information on evidence-based interventions. The interventions will be relevant for people at all stages of life, along the continuum of care, across all service delivery platforms, and across all world regions, with a specific focus on low- and middle-income countries.

The PIR will be available as an open-access online resource and will have different target audiences and purposes. Ministries of Health can use the PIR to strategically plan integrating interventions for rehabilitation in their national health services; researchers can use it to identify rehabilitation research gaps; academics to develop curricula to train rehabilitation professionals, and service providers to plan and implement specific interventions in their rehabilitation programs.

#### **WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR A PACKAGE OF INTERVENTIONS FOR REHABILITATION?**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has the overall goal to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. Among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), goal 3 aims to "ensure healthy lives and promote well-being at all ages". Within SDG 3, a specific target calls for the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), defined as "all people receiving the full spectrum of quality health services (health promotion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care) that meet their needs without being exposed to financial hardship in paying for the services". The WHO has defined UHC's achievement as one of the strategic priority goals to address SDG 3 in its General Programme of Work 2019-2023 (GPW 13). To address this in terms of rehabilitation services, WHO's Rehabilitation Programme has launched the Rehabilitation 2030 - A call for action initiative in 2017.

Rehabilitation is a core health service for individuals throughout the life course, across the continuum of care for a range of acute and chronic health conditions, such as for children with developmental disorders, people who suffered injuries, or older people with age-related chronic conditions. It is critical that WHO Member States are equipped with technical guidance to establish and strengthen rehabilitation service delivery according to population needs. This means identifying the interventions for rehabilitation that should be prioritized for integration into the health system and the resources required to deliver them

safely and effectively. Such guidance would strengthen health systems for rehabilitation by informing health policy, planning, and budgeting.

## WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PACKAGE OF INTERVENTIONS FOR REHABILITATION?

WHO Rehabilitation Programme leads the development of the PIR. An advisory board composed of members from different WHO departments, including the WHO's Guideline Review Committee Secretariat, methodologically oversees the project. The development of the PIR is calling for the engagement of the wider rehabilitation community. Therefore, different stakeholders, such as health conditions specific organizations, health professional organizations, international non-governmental organizations, and consumer organizations are also involved. Cochrane Rehabilitation collaborates in the project providing methodological support.

It is anticipated that the PIR will be finalized and available at the end of 2021.

## HOW IS THE PACKAGE OF INTERVENTIONS FOR REHABILITATION BEING DEVELOPED?

The development of the PIR takes an evidence-based and stepwise approach and draws on rehabilitation professionals' expertise. WHO's Guideline Review Committee Secretariat guided and supervised the development of the methods for the development process. A stepwise approach is being conducted to end up with an open-source resource providing information on evidence-based interventions for rehabilitation (Fig. 1)

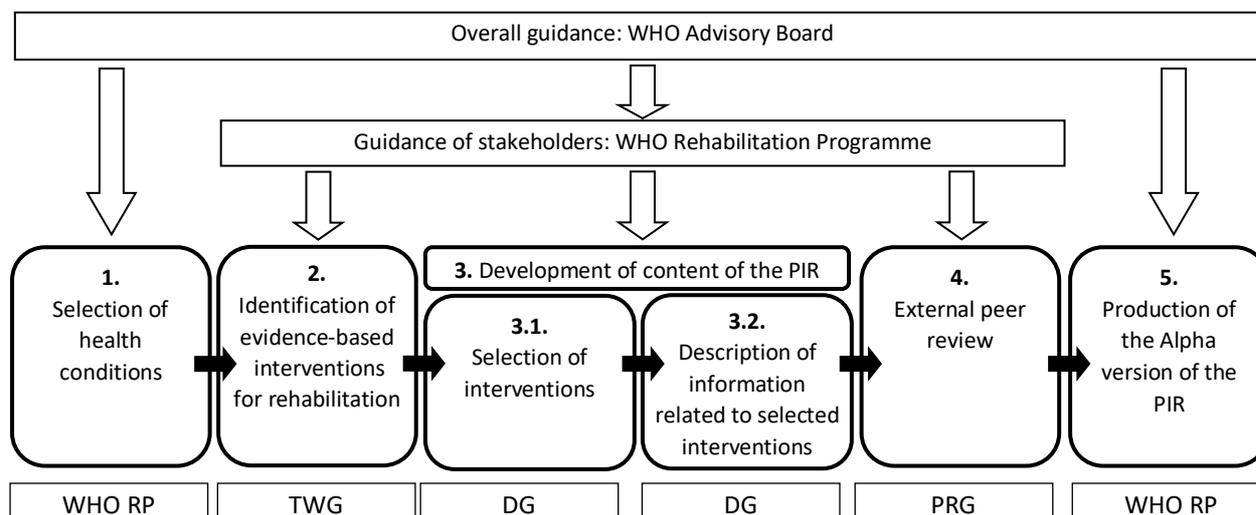


Figure 1: Process for the development of the Package of Interventions for Rehabilitation

PIR = Package Interventions for Rehabilitation; WHO RP = World Health Organization Rehabilitation Programme; TWG = Technical Working Group; DG = Development Group; PRG = Peer Review Group.

To date, steps 1 to 3 have been accomplished. In the first step, health conditions related to different disease areas have been selected based on global prevalence rates, associated years of living with disability and proposals from rehabilitation experts, particularly those working in low- and middle-income countries. In the second step, Technical Working Groups (TWGs) have identified the evidence from high-quality clinical practice guidelines under the guidance of methodological experts from Cochrane Rehabilitation and WHO Rehabilitation Programme. In the third step, health condition-specific Development Groups (DGs), composed of experts representing all world regions and all professions relevant to rehabilitation in a specific health condition, have selected the interventions to be included in the PIR, defined the service delivery platforms, described the required material resources and agreed on the time needed to provide each intervention. In the fourth step, the External Peer Review Groups (PRGs) will review the results. In the fifth step, the first Alpha version will be produced. Finally, the PIR will be tested in countries and published as an open-source web-based tool. Different dissemination strategies will be used to raise awareness on the PIR.

## Package of Rehabilitation Interventions

### PEER REVIEW GROUP

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

#### **OBJECTIVE OF THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS**

The peer review process aims to detect any issue that requires attention and potential revision of the content of the WHO's Package of Interventions for Rehabilitation (PIR).

#### **MANDATE OF THE PEER REVIEW GROUP**

The Peer Review Group is responsible for conducting step 4 of the PIR development. Under the leadership of the WHO Rehabilitation Programme, the Peer Review Group is mandated to provide feedback to the draft version of the PIR for one or more specific health conditions, selected in the step 3 through:

- completing an online survey with questions related to the content of the PIR;
- participating in an online web-conference to discuss any open issue relevant to the revision of the PIR.

This Peer Review Group will be composed for the review of the Package of Interventions for Rehabilitation for people with Schizophrenia.

#### **MEMBERS OF THE PEER REVIEW GROUP**

The Peer Review Group may include technical experts, end-users, program managers, advocacy groups, and individuals affected by the health condition addressed in PIR. The rehabilitation experts will represent the rehabilitation workforce and need to have working or research experience in the health condition addressed by the Peer Review Group.

A Peer Review Group will include representatives from all geographical regions with a special representation from low- and middle resource context:

- African Region
- South-East Asia Region
- Western Pacific Region
- Eastern Mediterranean Region
- Region of the Americans
- European Region

Members of the Peer Review Group will be identified through nominations by members of Development Groups, different stakeholder organizations, and through WHO Rehabilitation Programme's network.

## **COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION OF THE PEER REVIEW PROCESS**

WHO Rehabilitation Programme will coordinate and support the work of the Peer Review Groups by:

- providing all the background information relevant for the review process;
- providing the draft version of the PIR for the health conditions relevant to the review process;
- providing the necessary platforms to gather the feedback, including a web-based survey and web-conferences.

All communication will take place via email or web-conferences and will be in English.

## **EXPENDITURE OF TIME AND OVERALL DURATION**

The peer review process is expected to last about two months. Members of the Peer Review Group will need to allocate an average time of about three hours to complete an online survey per health condition. Additionally, the members will be asked to participate in an online web-conference to discuss any open issue related to the feedback of the members of the Peer Review Group. This web-conference will last between 2 and 3 hours. If more time is required, additional conferences will be scheduled.

## **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Prior to joining a Peer Review Group, interested candidates need to submit a conflict of interest form supplemented by a curriculum vitae. Identified conflict of interest precludes membership in the Peer Review Group.

## **REMUNERATION**

Members will not be remunerated for their participation in the Peer Review Group. The work will not require any travels.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The names of each member of the Peer Review Group and, when appropriate, the organization they represent will be listed in the acknowledgments section of the completed PIR.