

B1: Postural support in lying; an expert consensus survey

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The development is underway of a practice guide for clinicians and families on the use of sleep positioning systems. This is being funded through the Posture & Mobility Group (PMG) Research Fund.

A wide-ranging literature review has been completed; however, the included studies are largely of low quality because of the small numbers of participants, the lack of methodological rigour, missing data, lack of information in the reporting or studies that were published only as conference abstracts. In the higher quality studies participants were already users of sleep positioning systems and this limits the applicability of the evidence to the general population of children and adults with neurodisability.

As recruitment to a large randomised trial may be difficult to achieve, we are seeking a consensus of expert opinion as the way forward to strengthen the evidence of the potential benefits and risks associated in the use of sleep positioning systems for children and adults with a neurodisability. We are asking for participants from the PMG membership to take part in 2 rounds of a Delphi survey which will build consensus and enable a position paper to be written. The position paper will then be presented at the PMG Conference in July 2018 and, in a question and answer breakout session, ratified by the delegates. Minor changes to the paper may need to be undertaken following that session. To further ratify and consolidate the findings we aim to send the position paper to the membership of the professional bodies of occupational therapists and physiotherapists. Further minor changes or additions may be made at that point under the editorship of the research team.