

# PROJECT PROPOSAL

## EUROPEAN HAND THERAPY GUIDELINES ON ASSESSMENT AND THERAPY OF THE HAND

### Aim

The aim of this programme is to obtain a set of European Hand Therapy Guidelines on the Assessment and Therapy of the hand. These evidence based practise guidelines in hand therapy will be concerning 4 projects:

1. measurement instruments
2. hand therapy protocols
3. outcome measures per diagnoses
4. development of a European database

This project should preferably be a European project based on the work of the members of the European Federation of Societies for Hand Therapy (EFSHT) and in cooperation with the Federation of European Societies for Surgery of the Hand (FESSH)

### Content

#### 1. measurement instruments

A list of measuring instruments will be made according to the two components of the ICF

- A selection of instruments will be made in consultation with experts using the Delphi method
- After selection, invite and appoint an expert group (2 persons) per instrument
- literature should be studied and where lacking reviews need to be considered
- experts are invited to describe the instrument, according a specific format, with references to literature.
- manuscript is submitted to review board
- possible conflicts in recommendations are solved through Delphi rounds
- Manuscript is finalized and published

Note: the ASHT is considering an update of the 1992 *Clinical Assessment Recommendations* booklet<sup>2</sup>, giving a overview of all available instruments. In this European project the aim is to reach consensus on what instruments to use. A cooperation might be considered.

#### 2. therapy protocols

All common diagnoses should be included (trauma and non-trauma)  
list of all diagnoses with priorities

Per diagnoses:

- invite and appoint an expert group (2-3 persons)
- literature should be studied and where lacking reviews need to be considered
- manuscript is submitted to review board

- possible conflicts in recommendations are solved through Delphi rounds
- Manuscript is finalized and published

3. outcome measures per diagnoses

all common diagnoses should be included (trauma and non-trauma)(see 1)

- list of all diagnoses; priorities
- per diagnoses
  - invite and appoint an expert group (2-3 persons)
  - literature studied
  - manuscript is submitted to review board
  - possible conflicts in recommendations are solved through Delphi rounds
  - Manuscript is finalized and published

4. develop a European database

Developing a programme specifically designed for collecting data in Europe for the hand therapy and surgery outcomes, similar as in the US where Cedaron has signed a contract with the ASHT.

Method

A working group should be appointed by the EFSHT Executive Committee and the Permanent Scientific Committee (PSC).

Project Management

- Ton Schreuders (PT, PhD) Chairman of the EFSHT - PSC
- Lucelle van de Ven - Stevens (OT, MSc) Radboud University Nijmegen
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Suggested members of working group for the programme:

- Ton Schreuders (PT, PhD) Chairman of the EFSHT - PSC
- Lucelle van de Ven - Stevens (OT, MSc) Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre NL
- Ragnhild Cederlund, (PT, PhD) Assistant Professor, Division of Occupational Therapy and Gerontology, Lund University, Sweden
- Christina Jerosch-Herold (DipCOT, MSc, PhD) The Queens Building, School of Allied Health Professionals University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK
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Every project is coordinated by (one or two members of) the working group or project group.

Suggested members of the Review board

Wim Brandsma (Eth)  
 Fiona Peck (UK)  
 Annemieke Videler (NI)  
 Birgitta Rosen (S)  
 Ruud Selles (NI)  
 Sarah Ewald (Su)  
 Angela Hart (D)  
 Eric van de Kerkhoven (B)  
 Dominique Thomas (F)  
 Tracy Fairplay (It)  
 Griet van Veldhoven (N)

Therapy protocols and measurement instruments will be the first to be addressed. These can be done at the same time. The working group will seek for cooperation with expert members within the EFSHT on certain topics. E.g. on the topic of measurement instruments on sensation Birgitta Rosen might be asked to write this chapter.

Therapy protocols will not be as detailed as the Rehabilitation of the Hand chapter but basically recommended guideline based on the highest level of evidence. In some areas where there is no evidence the expert opinion of members of the EFSHT will be asked to come to a consensus. This will be done through Delphi rounds as was done during a pilot on Mallet finger in 2007-2008.

#### Ownership

In general the results will be published with the working group members as editors. The chapters will clearly acknowledge the authors input and showing them as authors of these chapters.

Whenever authors like to publish parts of their work (e.g. reviews) in journals, they can do so in consultation with the working group. Experts who have really been working on the subject may be co-author of the publication. The EFSHT will be acknowledged in publications.

This needs to be further defined. Per project, persons concerned need to make agreements.

#### Language

The language that will be used in products and publications will be English

#### Publications.

The results might be published in a book with the working group as the editors. Chapters in this book will have the responsible person as first author.

To facilitate the usage of the recommendations it needs to be considered that members have open access to certain parts of the book e.g. summaries and updates which will appear on the EFSHT web

#### Finance

Needs to be investigated.

#### References

1. Schadel-Hopfner M, Windolf J, Antes G, Sauerland S, Diener MK. Evidence-Based Hand Surgery: The Role of Cochrane Reviews. *J Hand Surg Eur Vol* 2008;33(2):110-117.
2. ASHT, ed. Clinical Assessment Recommendations. 2nd ed. Garner, NC: American Society of Hand Therapists, 1992.