

To accompany the video, please see below three case studies to help explain patient treatment and background.

Case Study One

This patient has Worster-Drought syndrome; which is a type of cerebral palsy (movement disorder) that affects the muscles around the mouth and throat. This causes problems with swallowing, feeding, talking, dribbling and other actions controlled by these muscles. This patient cannot use the muscles to verbally communicate effectively; therefore he uses Makaton to help him to communicate.

Makaton is a language programme using signs and symbols to help people to communicate. It is designed to support spoken language and the signs and symbols are used with speech, in spoken word order.

Without accessing the Learning Disability Physiotherapy service all communication with this adult would have to be via his step dad. This, obviously, is very frustrating for the patient but also means that the patient cannot independently communicate his own opinion directly to the Physiotherapist.

By using Makaton communication a whole assessment was completed with the patient himself and the Physiotherapist; this meant that the patient was fully engaged with his rehabilitation and was successful in reducing his lower back pain and building the strength within his lower back to prevent further discomfort in the future.

Case Study Two

The Physiotherapy Assistant in Dudley worked tirelessly with this patient to improve his mobility and managed to secure charity funding for an electronic walking aid. Overall this patient's BMI reduced, his general health improved and this enabled an enhanced quality of life and independence.

Case Study Three

This patient has a Learning Disability diagnosis as well as Asperger syndrome; this is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how people perceive the world and interact with others.

This patient was referred to the Learning Disability Physiotherapy Team due to a painful shoulder. This patient on arrival at The Ridge Hill Centre was unable to follow any specific commands: to assess and treat this patient via mainstream services would have been impossible. By accessing trampoline therapy and exercise in water the Physiotherapist was able to design and implement a treatment plan to isolate particular shoulder muscles.

The Dudley Learning Disabilities Physiotherapy Team would like to thank all clients and support staff for their participation and involvement in this video.