



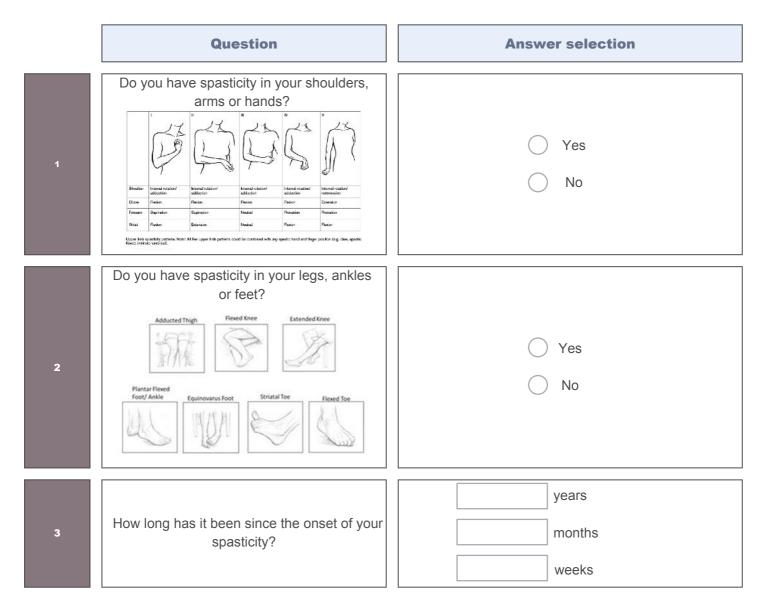


# Management of Spasticity After Stroke: Checklist for people with lived experience

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The Management of Spasticity After Stroke Checklist has been developed to assist patients and their caregivers in managing spasticity. Spasticity is a condition in which there is an abnormal increase in muscle tone or stiffness of muscle, which might interfere with movement, speech, or be associated with discomfort or pain. Some spasticity may also be useful in certain muscle groups as an alternative to muscle voluntary activation to provide support in transfers or standing, for example. Spasticity is usually caused by damage to the central nervous system, within the brain or spinal cord. It is frequent amongst stroke survivors and usually manifests itself a few weeks to a few months after the stroke. There is effective treatment for this condition, therefore it is important to get patients referred to a spasticity specialist once symptoms are noticed.

This activity is part of the World Stroke Academy Life After Stroke project, that aims to improve the quality of support and educational material available globally on the topic of Life After Stroke.



		Left side Right side	
4	Which part of your body is affected by spasticity? Check all that apply:	<ul> <li>Face</li> <li>Face</li> <li>Shoulder</li> <li>Shoulder</li></ul>	
5	Do you feel pain due to spasticity? Other type of discomfort?	<ul> <li>Yes</li> <li>Painful segment (lengthy period of pain &gt;1min)</li> <li>Pain at rest</li> <li>Pain when passively mobilized</li> <li>Pain with active movement</li> <li>Painful spasms</li> <li>Burning pain</li> <li>Freezing pain</li> <li>Numb pain</li> <li>Tightness</li> <li>Heaviness</li> </ul>	

6	Do you feel fatigue due to spasticity?	Yes		
		O No		
7	Do you have spasms because of spasticity?	Yes		
		O No		
8	Do you have contractures in the spastic limb, even when using another limb, or when someone else slowly moves your affected limb? (eg. restricted range of movement even when mobilizing your limb passively and slowly)	O Yes		
		O No		
	Does spasticity limit your ability to care for yourself or to perform other activities of daily living?			
	- Hygiene	◯ Yes ◯ No		
	- Grooming	◯ Yes ◯ No		
9	- Dressing	◯ Yes ◯ No		
	- Feeding	◯ Yes ◯ No		
	- Using the toilet	◯ Yes ◯ No		
	- Using splints	O Yes O No		
	Does spasticity limit your mobility ?			
	- Walking	◯ Yes ◯ No		
10	- Transfer (from one flat surface to another)	🔿 Yes 🔷 No		
	- Standing	◯ Yes ◯ No		
	- Falls	Yes No		
11	Does spasticity limit any other activity or participation?			
	- Sleeping	◯ Yes ◯ No		
	- Leisure activities	◯ Yes ◯ No		
	- Driving	◯ Yes ◯ No		
	- Employment	🔿 Yes 🔷 No		

11	- Social participation - Family participation - Professional participation - Sexual activity	<ul> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> </ul>		
12	What are your treatments for spasticity? How many days weekly?	Stretching - self / by a carer / by a professional		
		Strength training exercises - self / by a carer / by a professional Physical modalities - self / by a carer / by a professional Heat Cold Electrical stimulation Magnetic stimulation		

		Oral medication		
	What are your treatments for spasticity?	Baclofen Ores No		
		Tizanidin O Yes O No		
		Benzodiazepins O Yes O No		
		Gabapentin/pregabalin Ores No		
		Botulinum toxin injection O Yes O No Every how many months ?		
12	How many days weekly?			
		Splinting /orthotics OYes ONo		
		Casting O Yes O No		
		Intrathecal baclofen		
		Surgery O Yes O No		
		Neurosurgery OYes ONo		
		Orthopaedic surgery Orthopaedic Surgery No		
	How many days weekly?	Stretching - self / by a carer / by a professional		
		Range of motion exercises -     self / by a carer / by a professional		
13		Task training exercises - self / by a carer / by a professional		
		Grab/release		
		Reaching		
		Manual/bimanual tasks		
		Tranfers		
		Balance		
		Walking		

13	13       How many days weekly?         13       How many days weekly?			
	How compliant are you to the spasticity treatments?	<ul> <li>Fully compliant</li> <li>Mostly compliant</li> </ul>		
14	EXERCISING	<ul> <li>Fairly non-compliant</li> <li>Completely non-compliant</li> <li>Fully compliant</li> <li>Mostly compliant</li> <li>Fairly non-compliant</li> <li>Completely non-compliant</li> </ul>		
	TASK TRAINING	<ul> <li>Fully compliant</li> <li>Mostly compliant</li> <li>Fairly non-compliant</li> </ul>		
	MEDICATIONS	<ul> <li>Completely non-compliant</li> <li>Fully compliant</li> <li>Mostly compliant</li> <li>Fairly non-compliant</li> <li>Completely non-compliant</li> <li>Fully compliant</li> </ul>		
	ORTHOSIS USAGE			
		<ul> <li>Mostly compliant</li> <li>Fairly non-compliant</li> <li>Completely non-compliant</li> </ul>		

A. I am currently considering discontinuing it.

B. I have considered discontinuing it in the past.

C. I have never considered discontinuing it.

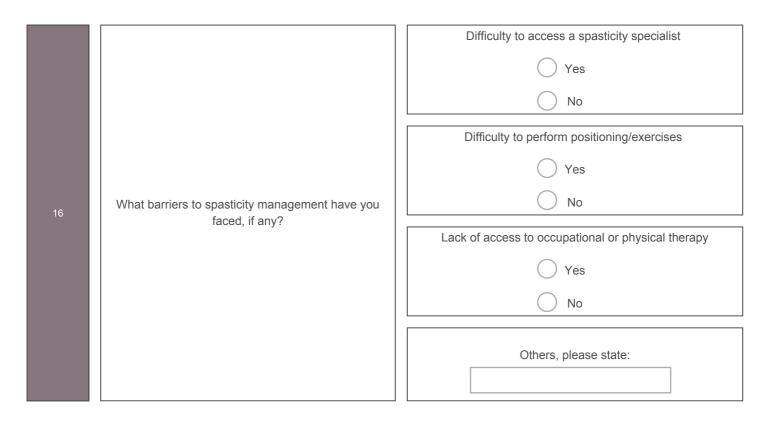
		0 (Unimportant)	1 (Somewhat important)	2 (Important)	3 (Very Important)
	Unable to easily attend the treatment clinic				
	Financial costs of treatment are too great				
	Other logistical reason [please specify]				
	I experienced side effects from the treatment				
	I feel the treatment has never been effective enough				
rs in	I feel the treatment was effective at first, but now it is not effective enough				
sticity	I feel the treatment is painful/unpleasa nt to administer				
	My doctor feels the treatment is not working				
	My doctor feels the treatment has worked and now I no longer need it				
	I am going to receive a different medicine instead				
	I am going to receive a surgical treatment instead				
	I am going to receive a physiotherapy alone instead (ie. no medicine)				
	Another reason for considering discontinuing your spasticity medication [Please specify]				

If the answer to Q14 is A or B:

Are you considering, or have you ever considered

discontinuing your current spasticity medication?

How important were the following factors in your considering discontinuing your spasticity medication? [score 0 (unimportant) – 3 (important) for each]



# **Treatment options for spasticity:**

### 1. NONPHARMACOLOGIC TREATMENT OF SPASTICITY

- Stretching
- Fitting of splints/braces and serial casting
- Thermotherapy
- Neuromuscular electrical stimulation (NEMS)
- Functional electrical stimulation of upper and lower extremity
- Kinesiotherapy (PT/OT)
- Muscle strengthening
- Task training
- Aerobic training
- Use of robotics
- Use of virtual reality

## 2. PHARMACOLOGIC TREATMENT OF SPASTICITY

- Oral medications (Baclofen, Tizanidine, Dantrolene, Diazepam)
- Phenol/alcohol neurolysis
- Botulinum toxin
- Intrathecal baclofen
- Cryoneurolisis

#### 3. SURGICAL TREATMENT OF SPASTICITY

- Orthopedic procedures
- Neurosurgical procedures

#### References

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