



# The Long & Winding Road: Paving the way for rehabilitation development in Ireland

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On behalf of the  
Post-Acute Inpatient  
Rehabilitation Mapping  
project team

NCP Networking Day

29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

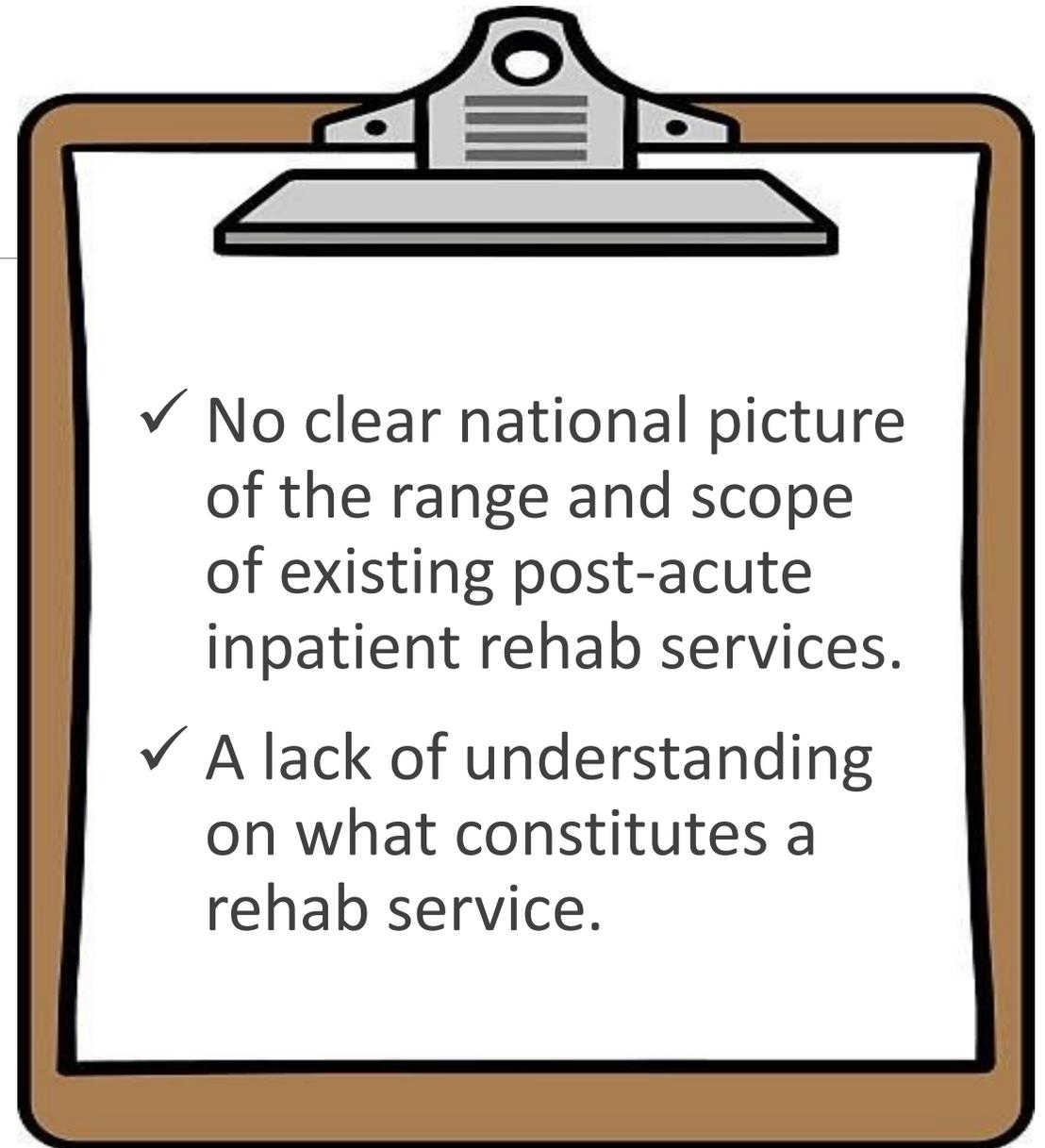


# Defining rehabilitation

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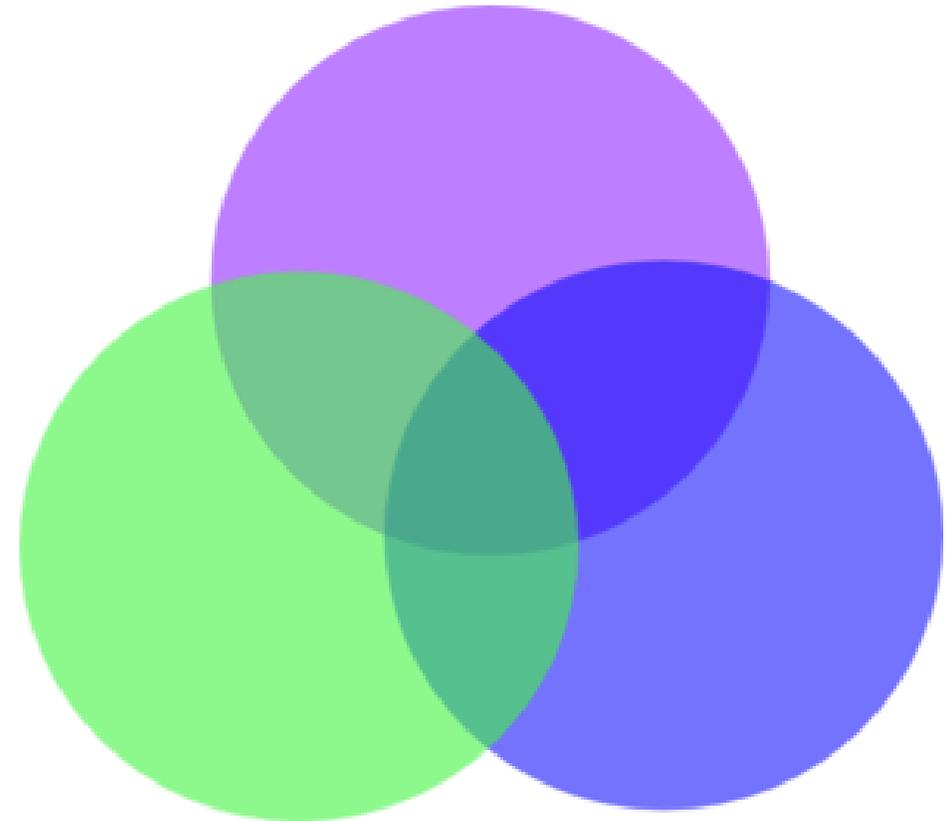
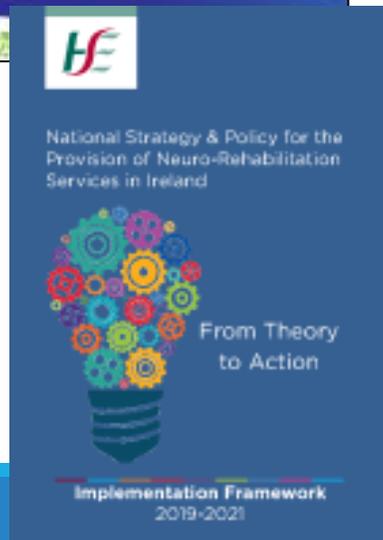
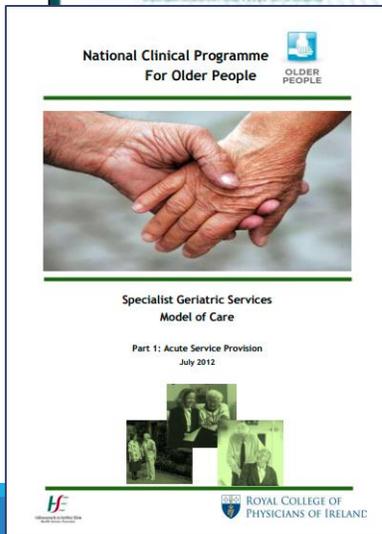
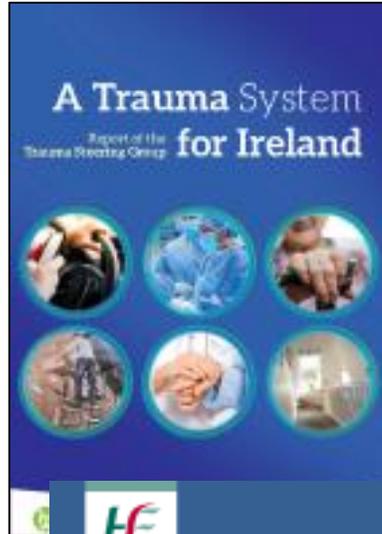
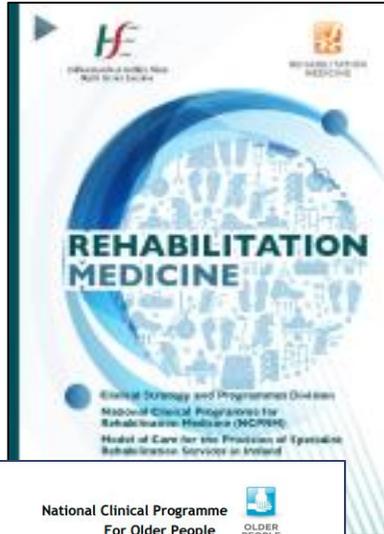
“A set of interventions designed to optimise functioning & reduce disability in individuals with health conditions, in interaction with their environment” (WHO, 2021)

WHO Rehabilitation 2030: Call to Action



- ✓ No clear national picture of the range and scope of existing post-acute inpatient rehab services.
- ✓ A lack of understanding on what constitutes a rehab service.

# Towards integration & patient-centred care



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Project team members:

- ✓ NCP for Rehabilitation Medicine
- ✓ National Office for Trauma Services
- ✓ National Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy
- ✓ NCP for Stroke
- ✓ NCP for Older People

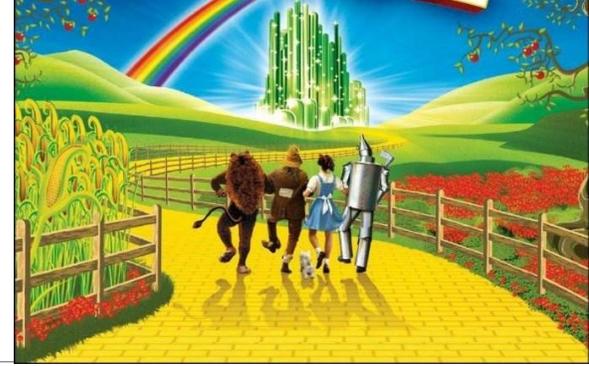
Project sponsors:

- Dr Emer Ahern, NCAGL for Older Persons
- Dr Paul Carroll, Clinical Lead, NCP for Rehabilitation Medicine



# Scope & Methodology

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**AIM:** to map all post-acute inpatient rehabilitation in Ireland and gain an objective understanding of the capacity and capability of these services.

..The foundations to enable **strategic** rehabilitation development and meet anticipated increased demand.

- Survey design based on key international documents
- Stakeholder consultation & pilot testing
- All post-acute inpatient rehabilitation services, with dedicated multi-disciplinary input, across acute hospitals, community services, private and section 38 services.

# Data collection & analysis

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Extensive validation process

Data analysis challenges

35% of initial organisations were deemed out of scope

92% response rate.  
43 organisations  
providing 57 distinct  
rehab services.



# Some key findings

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1336 beds identified as providing post-acute inpatient multidisciplinary rehabilitation, across acute and community settings.

Significant shortfall in number of post-acute rehabilitation beds across all patient cohorts, e.g. 58% shortfall of neuro-rehabilitation beds (Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy, 2018).

Significant geographical disparity in bed numbers across CHOs (6.4 - 45 beds per 100,000 population).

Deficits in workforce and a mismatch with meeting complex patient needs.



# Recommendations

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- Develop National Rehabilitation Service Specification, with defined national standards to support their development
- Establish a national rehabilitation data collection system to enable benchmarking and quality improvement at a local, regional and national level.



# Further recommendations

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- Additional designated rehabilitation beds are required to meet population needs.
- Post-acute rehabilitation in Ireland should be developed with distinct levels of care, to address complexity of need and ensure minimum standards of care related to:
  - Clinical governance
  - Appropriately staffed and skilled workforce
  - Access to evidence-based interventions



# Thank you

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Final report due  
for publication  
Q1 2024



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