

# Assessing the effectiveness of Communication Therapy in the North West

<b>Submission date</b> 26/02/2004	<b>Recruitment status</b> No longer recruiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Registration date</b> 27/02/2004	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 06/02/2015	<b>Condition category</b> Circulatory System	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

## Plain English summary of protocol

<http://www.psych-sci.manchester.ac.uk/actnow/patients/>

## Contact information

### Type(s)

Scientific

### Contact name

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### Contact details

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## Additional identifiers

### ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)

NCT00831740

### Protocol serial number

HTA 02/11/04

## Study information

## **Scientific Title**

Assessing the effectiveness of Communication Therapy in the North West: a pragmatic, multicentre randomised controlled trial

## **Acronym**

ACT NoW

## **Study objectives**

This is a two-phase study.

Phase 1 - What is the feasibility of conducting a randomised controlled trial of therapy for adults with post-stroke communication impairment?

Phase 2 - What are the effectiveness, costs and service user preferences, for the provision of speech and language therapy for communication difficulties experienced by people in hospital with a stroke?

Phase 1 - Qualitative (focus groups & individual interviews) and quantitative (pilot RCT).

Phase 2 - Qualitative (focus groups & individual interviews) and quantitative (a pragmatic, multicentred, randomised controlled trial, stratified by diagnosis and therapist/centre, using an 'intention to treat' approach). Discrete choice experiments will be used to determine cost effectiveness.

Details of the study can also be found at: <http://www.hta.ac.uk/1390>

Protocol can be found at: <http://www.nchta.org/protocols/200200110004.pdf>

The ACT NoW Pilot Study is registered with ClinicalTrials.gov: <http://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT00158106>

On 17/01/2008 the overall trial start and end dates were changed from 01/06/2004 and 30/11/2007 to 01/10/2004 and 28/02/2010, respectively.

On 23/01/2009 the following changes were made to the trial record:

1. The overall trial end date was changed from 28/02/2010 to 28/10/2010.
2. The target number of participants has been changed from 600 to 170 (85 in each arm).

On 28/01/2009 the scientific title was added.

On 10/07/2009 the overall trial end date was changed from 28/10/2010 to 31/10/2010.

## **Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

## **Ethics approval(s)**

Northern and Yorkshire Research Ethics Committee

Phase 1: granted 14/09/2004 (ref: 04/MRE03/30)

Phase 2: granted 14/07/2006 (ref: 06/MRE03/42)

## **Study design**

Pragmatic multi-centre randomised controlled trial

## **Primary study design**

Interventional

## **Study type(s)**

Treatment

## **Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Stroke

## **Interventions**

Speech and language therapy versus an attention control.

Added 06/02/2009: Duration of intervention depends on each patient; the maximum duration is 16 weeks. The intervention period will be followed by an 8-week 'break'/ retention period.

## **Intervention Type**

Behavioural

## **Primary outcome(s)**

Current primary outcome measures as of 28/01/2009:

The following will be assessed 6 months after randomisation:

1. Functional communicative ability. Blinded expert therapists will rate semi-structured conversation using the Therapy Outcomes Measures (TOMS) scale.
2. Economic analysis will estimate the incremental cost effectiveness and net benefit of the intervention group compared to the control group from a societal perspective. Carers will self-complete the ACT NoW 'Support for Others Questionnaire' and research assistants will gather data for participant health economics evaluation through hospital records.
3. Qualitative study will examine service users' and carers' perspectives on the process and effects of Speech and Language Therapy or the control treatment. These will be assessed using qualitative interview schedules including rating scales developed specifically for this trial.

Previous primary outcome measures:

The primary outcome will be functional communicative ability. The economic analysis will estimate the incremental cost effectiveness and net benefit of the intervention group compared to the control group from a societal perspective. The qualitative study will examine service users' and carers' perspectives on the process and effects of Speech and Language Therapy or the control treatment.

## **Key secondary outcome(s)**

Added 28/01/2009:

The following will be assessed 6 months after randomisation:

1. Quality of life, assessed by Euroqol EQ-5D
2. Patients and carers self-reported ratings of functional communicative ability as measured by the Communication Outcome After Stroke (COAST) scale

## **Completion date**

31/10/2010

## **Eligibility**

### **Key inclusion criteria**

Current inclusion criteria as of 23/01/2009:

Adults diagnosed with aphasia and/or dysarthria following admission to hospital with a stroke.

Previous inclusion criteria:

Adults diagnosed with aphasia or dysarthria following admission to hospital with a stroke.

**Participant type(s)**

Patient

**Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

**Age group**

Adult

**Sex**

All

**Key exclusion criteria**

Current exclusion criteria as of 23/01/2009:

1. Subarachnoid haemorrhage
2. Progressive dementia/ learning difficulties
3. Not able to receive therapy in the English language
4. Expected recovery without therapy

Previous exclusion criteria:

Subarachnoid haemorrhage, progressive dementia, expected recovery without therapy.

**Date of first enrolment**

01/10/2004

**Date of final enrolment**

01/02/2010

**Locations**

**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

**Study participating centre**

Human Communication & Deafness (HCD) Group

Manchester

United Kingdom

M13 9PL

**Sponsor information**

## Organisation

University of Manchester (UK)

## ROR

<https://ror.org/027m9bs27>

## Funder(s)

### Funder type

Government

### Funder Name

NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme - HTA (UK)

## Results and Publications

### Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

### IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

### Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Results article</a>	results of assessment of the reliability of procedure for rating a conversation sample			Yes	No
<a href="#">Results article</a>	results on validation of Communication Outcome after Stroke (COAST) scale	01/12/2008		Yes	No
<a href="#">Results article</a>	results	13/07/2012		Yes	No
<a href="#">Other publications</a>	evaluation	01/05/2012		Yes	No
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes
<a href="#">Study website</a>	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes