

# Foundations of Practice and Beyond

## Plenary 1

Monday 1015

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## Do you want to know how well your organization is doing? An international benchmarking approach

### Biography

Mike Fray has 20 years experience as a consulting ergonomist, manual handling and rehabilitation adviser. He has been a Visiting Fellow on the Post-Graduate Back Care Programme, and is presently Research Fellow at Loughborough University. He has recently completed his PhD investigating successful outcomes in EU patient handling interventions.

### Abstract

There is a growing body of evidence from patient handling interventions and comparison studies. Unfortunately, high profile evidence reviews have found limited evidence for the benefits of patient handling interventions and poor levels of evidence for the reduction of work-related MSDs in the healthcare setting. This 4 year EU study investigated the outcomes from patient handling studies and devised a complex measurement tool to measure the performance in any organisation.

The Intervention Evaluation Tool (IET) is a complex performance measurement tool that evaluates the management systems for patient handling risk management. The development of the IET has been previously published (Fray and Hignett, 2009). Data from focus groups were coded using thematic and content analysis and integrated with a preference list from the group participants (9 countries, 44 participants), to give a ranked list of preferred outcomes. The IET, was developed utilising the most suitable measurement tools (Downs and Black 1998, Robson et al 2007) for each of the 12 most preferred outcomes.

The IET was translated, and used in field trials in 2 ward areas in 4 EU countries (UK, Finland, Italy, Portugal). A peer-review panel, consisting of 16 experts from the European Panel for Patient Handling Ergonomics, was also completed for member checking of the evidence found in the field trials. The IET was successful in collecting suitable data for 11/12 sections the financial data was not available at ward level. The IET calculation was used to identify differences in performance between the different locations with mixed success.

This presentation suggests that the UK is ready to assess its patient handling systems and can be proud of the systems that are in place. The use and development of this tool can in time be used as a UK and international benchmarking tool. More importantly can be used to measure the performance across many types of organisations to show which type of intervention has the best effect in reducing risks and improving performance.

## References

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