

EVIDENCE BASED POSITION PAPER ON PHYSICAL AND REHABILITATION MEDICINE (PRM) PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE IN AGEING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. THE EUROPEAN PRM POSITION (UEMS PRM SECTION)

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Introduction: Ageing people with disabilities are faced with challenges of ageing which is straightforwardly related to disability which adds to the burden related to their early-onset disability.

Aim: The aim of the paper is to improve Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine specialists' professional practice for ageing people with disabilities (as a distinct group from those who are disabled due to the ageing process) in order to promote their functioning properties and to reduce activity limitations and/or participation restrictions.

Material and Methods: A systematic review of the literature and a Consensus procedure by means of a Delphi method process has been performed involving the delegates of all European countries represented in the UEMS PRM Section.

Results: The systematic literature review is reported together with the 30 recommendations resulting from the Delphi procedure.

Conclusion: The professional role of PRM physicians in relation to ageing people with disabilities is extending, expanding and/or improving health-related rehabilitation services worldwide in various settings (getting beyond the rehabilitation facilities) emphasizing the concept of integrated care with collaboration across other sectors to meet the specific needs of ageing people with disabilities. This evidence-based position paper represents the official position of the European Union through the UEMS PRM Section and designates the professional role of PRM physicians in ageing people with disabilities.

Reference:

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