



# GP Neuromuscular News

To diagnose Duchenne MD  
in boys think

## MUSCLE

- M**—Motor milestone delay
- U**—Unusual gait
- S**—Speech delay
- C**—CK ASAP
- L**—Leads to
- E**—Early diagnosis of DMD

GPs advised to use the **MUSCLE** mnemonic when presented with a child with gross motor problems or speech delay and to screen for DMD at the 27-30 month health check. To find out more, please see free full article ["Improving recognition of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy: A retrospective case note review"](#). Van Ruiten HJA, Straub V, Bushby K, Guglier M. *Arch Dis Child.*, 3 September 2014.

## RCGP Neuromuscular E-learning Platform

GPs play an important role in identifying people with possible neuromuscular conditions, arranging appropriate referral and co-ordinating care. Therefore, the Royal College of GPs, in conjunction with the [Muscular Dystrophy Campaign](#) (MDC), and Dr Ros Quinlivan of the MRC Centre for Neuromuscular Diseases are developing a new e-learning platform. This is to ensure GPs and GP Trainees are confident in managing acute complications, such as respiratory infections, and arranging appropriate follow-up to the correct specialists and services where indicated. GPs are also in an ideal position to talk to patients, their families and carers about their expectations and concerns about disease progression and address psychological co-morbidities.



Part of the SW Neuromuscular Operational Delivery Network's (SWNODN) role is to improve the knowledge of professionals around these often very rare neuromuscular conditions. If you would like to join the peer review group of this e-learning module, please e-mail [nbn-tr.neuromuscular-odn@nhs.net](mailto:nbn-tr.neuromuscular-odn@nhs.net) to register your interest and find out further details about the SWNODN and its work.

### FREE CONFERENCE!

#### SW Interest in Muscles

Thursday 20 November 2014

Taunton Racecourse

[Contact Us](#) for full programme  
and registration details

## Neuromuscular Care Advisors

Did you know that the SWNODN has four Neuromuscular Care Advisors based across the South West who can provide valuable support to your neuromuscular patients in the community. They work with all ages and cover specific geographical areas. Some examples of how they can help are listed below:

- Information about a neuromuscular condition and where to find support;
- How to manage the condition and make better use of available services;
- How to access work, eligibility for benefits, access to specialist equipment;
- Make phone calls and write letters on a patient's behalf to ensure other health, social care services, educational institutions and work places have a clear understanding of their needs.
- Visit schools and talk to teachers about a child's neuromuscular condition and any long-term planning that is needed;
- Work closely with health, education and social care teams;
- Provide advice on managing the emotional impact of living with a neuromuscular condition and discuss options for counselling or further specialist clinical psychology support if required.

If you have a patient who would benefit from the services of a Neuromuscular Care Advisor, please contact the Network office directly and we will arrange for their Advisor to get in touch with them.

### Contact Us

South West Neuromuscular  
Operational Delivery Network  
Dept of Neurology  
Gate 10, Level 6, Brunel Building  
North Bristol NHS Trust  
Southmead Hospital Bristol  
Southmead Road  
Westbury-on-Trym  
BRISTOL BS10 5NB



Tel: 0117 41 41184 / 41185

E-mail: [nbn-tr.neuromuscular-odn@nhs.net](mailto:nbn-tr.neuromuscular-odn@nhs.net)

Website: [www.swneuromuscularodn.nhs.uk](http://www.swneuromuscularodn.nhs.uk)

(available from mid-November 2014)