PAIN SELF-MANAGEMENT TEN FOOTSTEPS PROGRAMME

LWWP Training Team

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Session Three 17/04/24



The Ten Footsteps What we've covered so far

Footstep 1 — Pain and the Brain

Footstep 2 – Acceptance

Footstep 3 – Pacing

Footstep 4 – Goal Setting

Footstep 5 - Relaxation & Mindfulness

Footstep 6 - Sleep



Breakout Recap & Review

 What areas have gone well for you in exploring or using Ten Footsteps approach and/or other suggested resources

 What struggles have you had? Let's problem solve them where possible

Responses in the chat when you return...

Overview of Session 3

- Focus on Footsteps:
 - □ Footstep 6: Sleep
 - Footstep 7: Communication
 - **□** Footstep 8: Managing Moods
 - **□** Footstep 9: Medicines & Nutrition
 - □ Footstep 10: Setbacks



Footstep 6 **Sleep**



Footstep 6: Sleep

Tim and Louise's sleep stories: ZZZZZZ

What do you hear are their problems:

- make notes
- ? feed into the Whiteboard when he finishes

Some key problems with pain and sleep:

- Worry thinking sleep pattern "what it should be" ... 90 minute cycles
- " daytime napping"..... and what to do about it!
- "Sleep pattern chaos + pain" the role of unwinding the painful body, tackling thinking + getting into day + night time routines
- Role of useful programmes like Sleepio + need for crucial discipline

Louise & Tim's experiences – Sleep





Sleep: Facts or myths

Use chat to answer True or False + Why

- 1) People of all ages needs 8 hours sleep each night
- 2) It helps to drink caffeine or "cola" based drinks to help your sleep
- 3) Resting in bed, watching TV helps for a better night's sleep
- 4) Snoring and waking through the night is normal
- 5) A good night's sleep means waking episodes in the sleep cycles through the night
- 6) A memory foam mattress will help improve my sleep

Footstep 6: Learning to sleep well

- □ Identify with person their typical 24 hour pattern; day/night
 + typical sleep pattern (sleep diary option)
- □ Enable access to resources so person explores + identify possibilities to change, creates helpful conversation

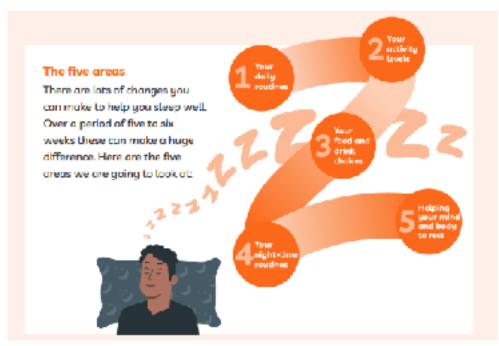
Five action areas to improve sleep – see tool

- □ **Routines**, stretch, beds vs. recliners etc
- □ Some never tips no screens
- □ **Always tips:** time for me, relaxation of body and mind



How to Sleep well with Pain





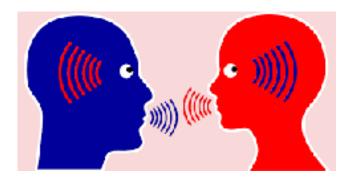
Footstep 7

Communication



Relationships & Communication

Pain has a wide reaching impact on many different relationships in peoples lives

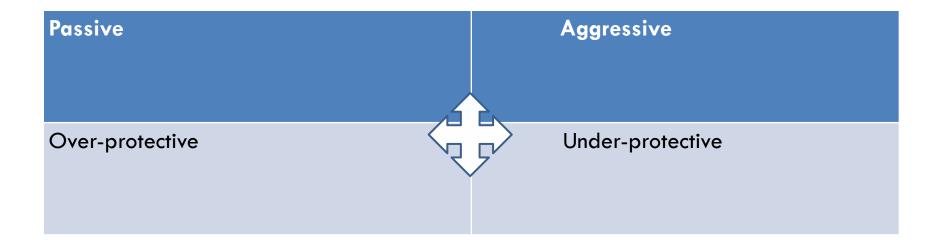


 As a result, the communication and dynamics within these relationships can change. Sometimes in a positive way; but often in a negative way creating more emotional pain

Lived experience: Communication

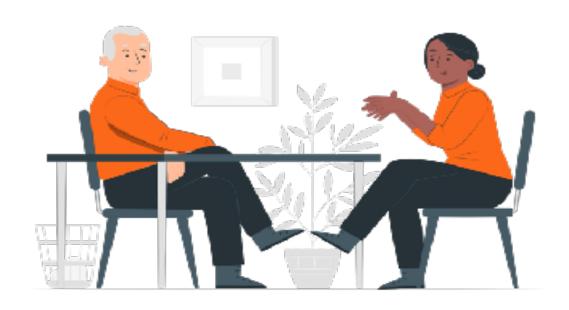
- Did your pain have an impact of your communication/relationships?
- What difficulties did you face?
- What strategies enabled you to communicate your needs better?

Communication problems & relationship styles



Discussion task

What skills can practitioners draw on to help people communicate their pain?



Support people to develop their communication skills

Here are some communication suggestions to share with the person you're supporting:

- People can't see pain, so they won't know what you have to deal with. Explain your condition if you don't, they will guess and probably get it wrong.
- Let people know persistent pain is a long-term condition which requires self-management and explain what this is.
- Remember that different people need to know different things. Family, friends, employers, health care professionals all need different types of information to support you, so focus on the things they need to know.
- Be confident, keep calm, know what you want to say, practice saying it.
- □ It's OK to tell others what you need such as to go slowly or to take rest breaks.
- Saying 'no' is OK this is not about people pleasing.
- Don't say "I'm fine" if you're not.
- If there's something you can't do be honest about it and say so. But always try to include a positive, like "I'm learning how to manage this."

Helping patients explain their pain to others

- Developing useful phrases
 - "I have a long-term pain condition but I'm learning to manage it"
- Asking or declining help
 - "I am having a bad day today so could you help do xxx?"
 - "I am pacing my activity and working towards my goal of xxx. I am confident that I can manage this on my own"
- Asserting needs to family & friend, health care professionals; employers;
 HR, occupational health:
 - Encourage patients to write down any questions to be asked
 - Practice / role play
 - Emphasis the patients expert knowledge in their own pain

Footstep 8 Managing moods



Footstep 8 Moods

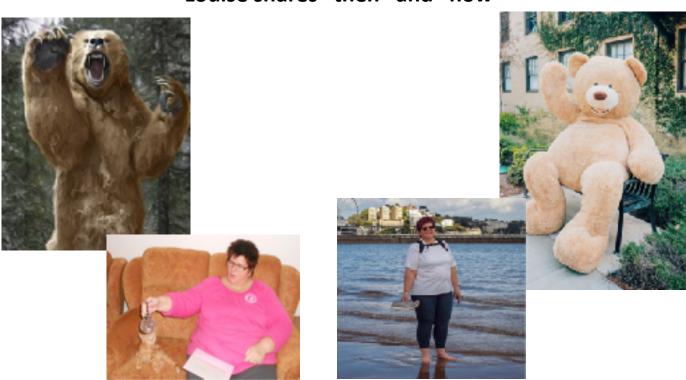
- Mood problems are very common in people with chronic pain
- At least 50% of people with chronic pain are depressed
- The ongoing presence of mood problems can often indicate greater disability and dependence as a result of pain
- Managing mood is an important factor that needs addressing

White board Task: What ways have you found pain affects mood?

Lived experience stories: In what ways did pain affect your mood?

Louise – Managing Moods

Louise shares "then" and "now"



Tim – Managing Moods





Pain & Mood

Pain can impact mood in many different ways, the three most common ways that mood is effected are;

Anxiety can be linked to: **Anger** is linked to:

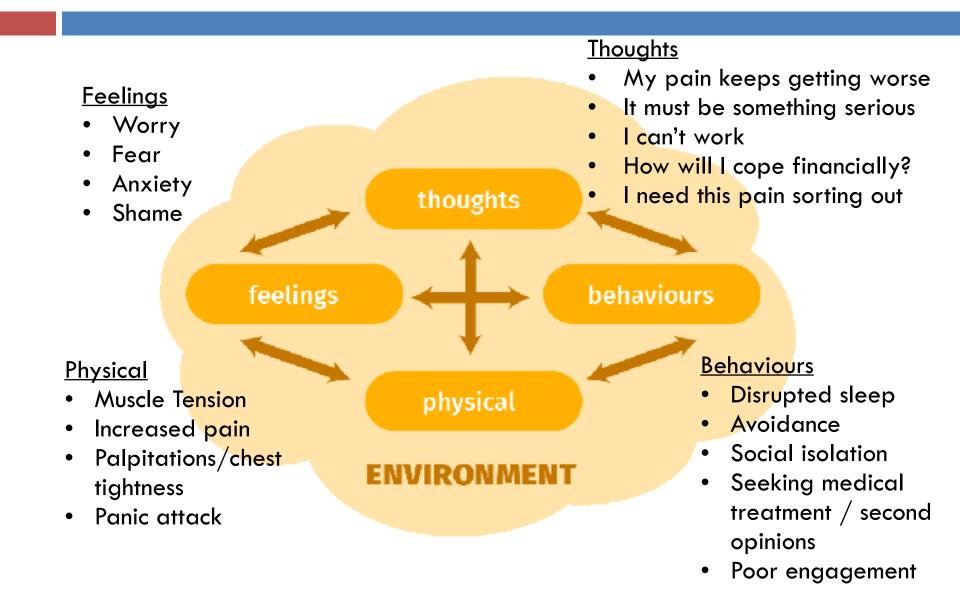
- overestimate of the danger or harm
- underestimate ability to cope + use resources or rescue factors

- pain itself / sense of injustice
- Loss of identity & what used to do
- Frustration at not being listened to or understood

Depression is shift in thinking to:

Negative view of self, others and the world and the future

The five areas model - anxiety



Our Role in self management - HCPs, social prescribers

- Role is to understand the intensity & persistence & interference that mood is having on daily life.
- Recognise
- Normalise
- Educate
- Scaling
- Refer or Escalate
- Sign post
- Encourage self-care strategies

Discussion task: How to ask about mood?

- Does the pain have any impact on how you feel? In what way? Give an example in the last week to help me/us understand.
- We've spoken a lot about how the pain effects you physically, does it effect you emotionally at all? In what way? Give an example......
- How would you describe your mood at moment?

Another way to explore mood issues is with these questions in Footstep 6

Identify mood issues and review regularly

To identify moods quickly you can use these two questions, adapted for the different moods:

For depression or low mood:

- During the last month, have you often been bothered by feeling down, depressed or hopeless?
- 2. During the last month, have you often been bothered by having little interest or pleasure in doing things?

For anger:

- During the last month, have you often found yourself being angry, irritable or frustrated, every day or some days?
- 2. During the last month, have you found that being angry, irritable or frustrated has interfered with your day-to-day life, affected others or the pain itself?

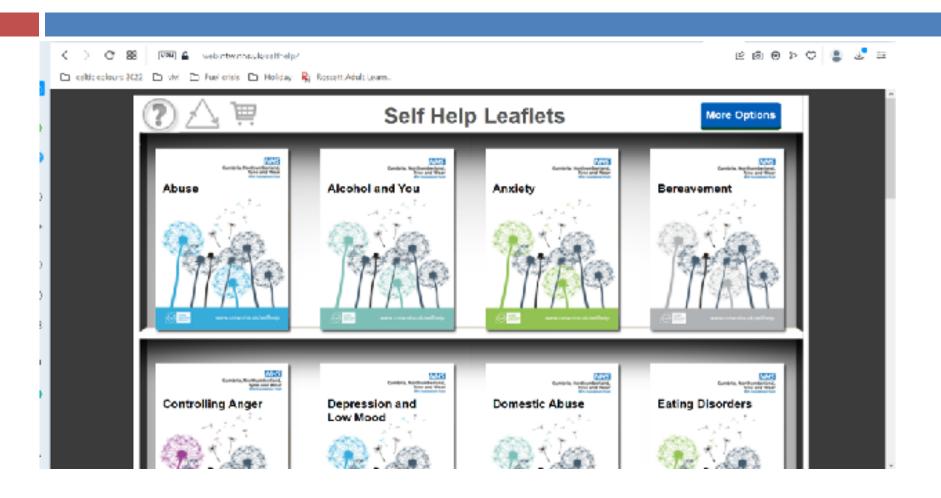


Encourage self-care strategies

FOOTSTEP Six

- Nine ways to help you manage moods
- 1. Noticing negative thoughts
- 2. Practice 'balanced thinking'
- 3. Do things that unwind your mind
- 4. Build a list of positive things you have done today, or this week
- 5. Practice being kind to yourself
- 6. Learn from others with similar pain issues
- 7. Get into helpful habits
- 8. Discover other ways to tackle negative thinking (You can find self-help resources to manage moods in most local libraries or explore the websites below)
- 9. Share your plans with people you trust and get their support
 Remember that you are not alone.

Useful CBT resources; - Free and in app



NHS Self Care https://web.ntw.nhs.uk/selfhelp/ and the free app

Role Play Task; Break out rooms

Work in pairs; one person be the clinician and the other be the patient...

Patient:

- Role play a person with pain who is experiencing either;
- low mood
- increased anxiety
- Frustration/anger

Clinician:

- Ask about mood to establish how it is being effected by pain.
- Explain the biopsychosocial nature of pain to reassure the patient.
- Suggest some self-care strategies that the patient could try to improve how they feel.

Footstep 9

Medicines and nutrition



What we are clear about....at present NICE guidelines [NG193 & NG215]

- Consider an antidepressant (amitriptyline, citalopram, duloxetine, fluoxetine, paroxetine, sertraline) (this is off label use see NICE information on prescribing medicines)
- Seek specialist advice for 16-17 year olds
- Explain that the medicines may help with quality of life, pain, sleep and psychological distress even in the absence of a diagnosis of depression



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Trials 🔻

Clinical Answers 🔻

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Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews Review - Intervention

Antidepressants for pain management in adults with chronic pain: a network meta-analysis

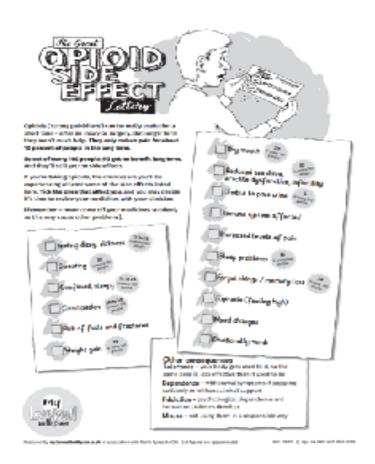
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☐ Tamar Pincus Authors' declarations of interest

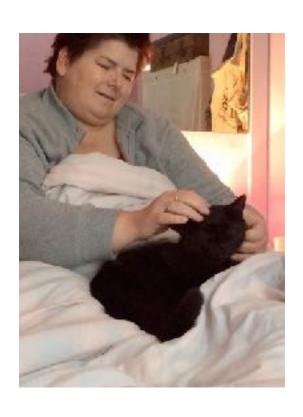
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https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD014682.pub2@

Task: Listen to Louise & Tim's Stories



Louise - On all Medication



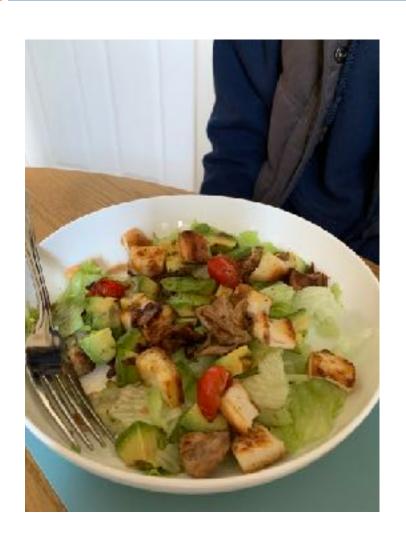


Louise - OFF medication



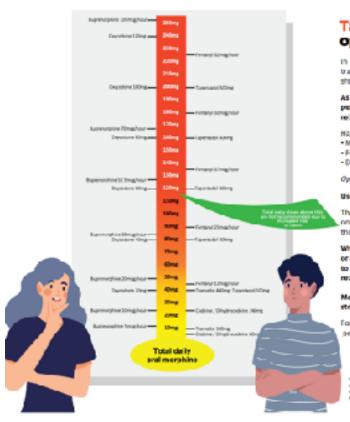


Tim's Medication Story





Opioid thermometer



Take the temperature of opioid pain medicines

In persistent pair, using opioid paintifiers, such as coderie, transacul and morphine for more than a few months, has not been shown to be helpful.

As doses increase above the equivalent of LCOmg one morphine per day, there is a much greater risk of harm and little extra pain railed.

Harms can include:

- Mucidled thinking
 - Dischers
- Tiredness

- Foor steep - Depression
- Weight gain
 Headaches
- Mood changes
 Vision changes

Opioids can everymake pain worse.

Use this thermometer to check the dose.

The higher the dose, the greater the risk of problems. If more than one opicid is heing taken, the total dose will be even further up the thermometer.

Wherever the dose is on the thermometer, if there are side effects or any other concerns about poin medicines, it should be repeated to the healthcare beam. People using pain reedicines are necessageded to have a review at least once a year.

Medicines that are not helping should be easefully reduced and stopped, even if there are no alternative medicines to try.

For more information and ideas on other ways to manage persistent pain visit www.livervellwithpain.co.uk

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Footstep 9: Medicines and nutrition

- Medicines only reduce pain for about 40 % of people
- Medicines appear to become less effective over time
- Side effects can have a major impact on a person's life.
 - 2 sedation, fatigue and weight gain can make it harder for people to become more active, something we are confident has a positive effect on pain and well-being.
- At least 50% of people with pain are overweight and pain medicines can make that harder to change.

So supporting a person with pain often involves making changes with both medicines and nutrition . . .

Your role....

Guide the person in the safe and effective use of pain medicines, ensuring they do not inadvertently come to harm.

You can do this by:

- Finding out whether the pain medicines are actually helping the person to do more in their lives, and similarly, what they still find difficult in spite of the medicines.
- Helping the person to understand the risks and potential long-term harms of pain medicines, and exploring how these might be affecting them.
- Ensuring you have introduced other concepts of supported selfmanagement such as pacing and goal setting.

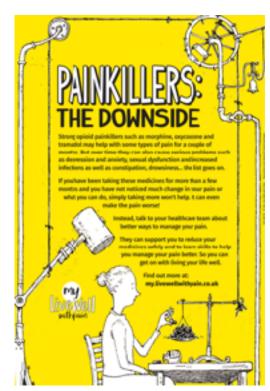
https://livewellwithpain.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/patient-medicines-decision-guide.pdf



Changing the conversation...

It is not a person's fault that they often want more or different pain-relieving medicines when they are not likely to be aware that they do not 'work' for everyone.

- We should be mindful that people who have taken pain medicines for long periods of time, may feel confused that they are only just being told.
- For the majority of people, despite publicity about the risks of analgesic medicines, being told that 'painkillers do not kill pain' challenges their beliefs.
- It is important to give people time to process and make sense of the information.



https://livewellwithpain.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/painkillers-poster-2.pdf

Actions practitioners can take

- Whilst most people will not gain much benefit from taking pain-relieving medicines, it is not possible to know who those people are until they have taken them
- Understand the evidence/guideline around the use of analgesic medicines in particular pain conditions. It can be easier not to prescribe in the first place, rather than try to stop medicines later on.
- When an analgesic is prescribed, ensure the patient understands it will be a trial and not an indefinite prescription.
- Agree a goal with the patient which will be used to review whether the pain-relief is helping or not. This could be an improvement in sleep, a short daily walk or something they feel is achievable and meaningful. A goal should be agreed whenever a dose is changed and even if the patient is already taking analgesics. (Footstep 4: Setting goals
- Agree what dose will be prescribed, if it can be increased, by how much and when.
- Agree when the review will be normally two weeks after starting the trial in the first instance.

If you are planning to start a prescription, explore the resources in our Medicines: starting a prescription section

Tapering pain-relieving medications

- We are all being encouraged to review analysesic medicines, especially for people who have been using them for extended periods of time or at high doses e.g. greater than 120mg oral morphine equivalent daily dose.
- Whilst it is important not to continue medicines that are unhelpful or which are harmful, it can cause patients to feel targeted or that they are having changes made without their agreement.
- Patients tend not to know what the side effects of a medicine are, so consider asking them what other issues they have noticed or problems they are experiencing. These can then be linked back to the medication

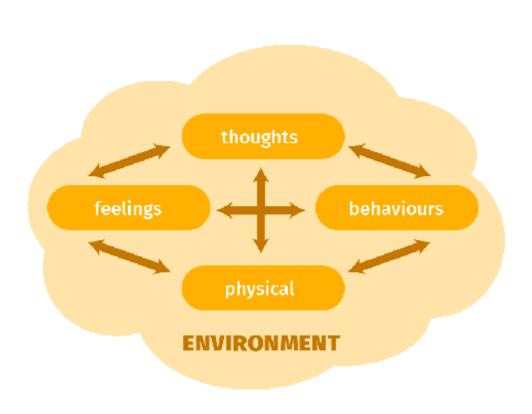
If you are planning a medicines review, explore the resources in our Medicines: resources to use when reviewing prescribed opioids section



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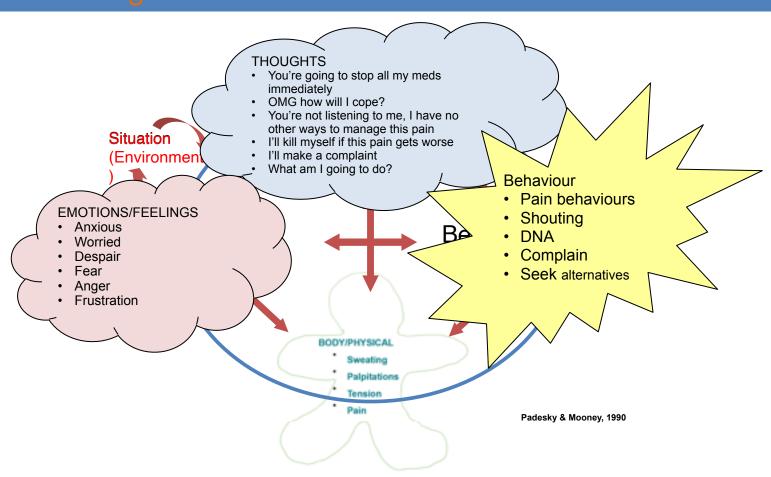
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The five areas model



The "5 Areas Model" & Deprescribing

"My advice is to reduce the medications you're taking"



Nutrition

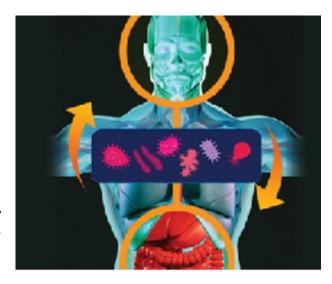
- A combination of medication side effects, together with being less active can lead to becoming overweight.
- Affects at least 50% of people with pain.
- losing weight is likely to be useful, but 'diets' may be psychologically unhelpful
- More positive outcome: focus on healthy eating with greater levels of activity
 - high quality nutrition e.g. a Mediterranean type diet as suggested in NHS Eat Well
- Public Health England recommend a vitamin D supplement daily for all and a dose of 10 micrograms/day to limit emergence of osteoporosis, especially in autumn/winter
- If you have access to local weight loss support services, consider referral – this group support may also help with social connectedness



Nutrition

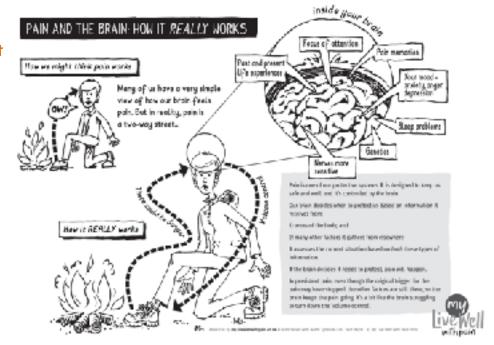
The role of the gut and the microbiome....

- Gut is full of trillions of bacteria, viruses and fungi. Some of these are good and some are bad.
- These are collectively known as the microbiome.
- While some bacteria are associated with disease, others are actually extremely important for your immune system, heart, weight and many other aspects of health.
- Emerging research around the role of the gut microbiome in regulating pain.



Review of Pain and the brain

- Pain is an output of the brain
- Protective mechanism: protect by pain alarm
- The decision of the brain on whether to sound the pain alarm is based upon information that reaches it from all parts of the body e.g.
 - the tissues,
 - different parts of the brain such as areas responsible for emotion and memory and
 - the gut/microbiome



How does the gut microbiome influence health?

There are a number of different ways in which the gut microbiome can affect key bodily functions and influence health Digesting fiber:

- producing short chain fatty acids, which are important for gut health.
- Helping control your immune system:
 - The gut microbiome communicates with immune cells, thus controlling how your body responds to infection
- Helping control brain health:
 - The gut microbiome may also affect the central nervous system, which controls brain function and brain health e.g. neurotransmitter production
 - The gut is physically connected to the brain through millions of nerves. therefore, the gut microbiome may also affect brain health by helping control the messages that are sent to the brain
- Microbiome diversity
 - Lack of diversity in the gut microbiome or an imbalance of bad bacteria, triggers a low level inflammatory and immune response
 - This can sensitize the CNS and increase the volume of the danger messages reaching the brain

How Can You Improve Your Gut Microbiome?

To have good gut health we need a wide range of different types of bacteria or microbiome.

The food you eat directly influences the diversity of your gut microbiome



- Diverse range of foods: e.g. legumes, beans and fruit (lots of fiber)
- Fermented foods: e.g. yogurt, sauerkraut and kefir
- Limit your intake of artificial sweeteners
- Prebiotic foods: e.g. artichokes, bananas, asparagus, oats and apples
- Whole grains
- Plant-based diet
- Foods rich in polyphenols e.g red wine, green tea, dark chocolate, olive oil and whole grains.
- Probiotic supplement
- Take antibiotics only when necessary



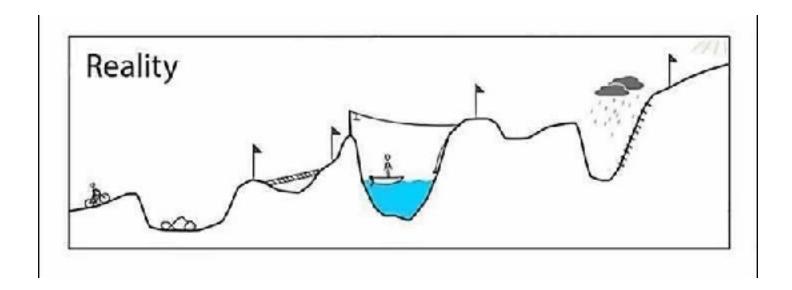
Footstep 9 – Medicines and nutrition **Summary of key points**

- ✓ Pain medicines remain a major part of most people's pain management, however they are poorly effective for the majority of people
- ✓ Side-effects of pain medicines, especially opioids and gabapentinoids, can make living
 with pain much harder but few people are aware of the problem.
- ✓ It is important to change the conversation about pain medicines, focusing on what
 they enable the person to do, rather than whether they take pain away.
- ✓ Nutrition is important for a person's general health and well-being. The focus should not be just on weight loss but supporting someone to make healthier choices, when possible and to see food as part of their management plan

Footstep 10 Managing setbacks









Thought experiment



Footstep 10:

3 ways to manage setbacks



Sign posts

 Learn to recognise the situational signs of heading into a flare up

Warning signs

 Physical and/or emotional signs you are about to have a flare up

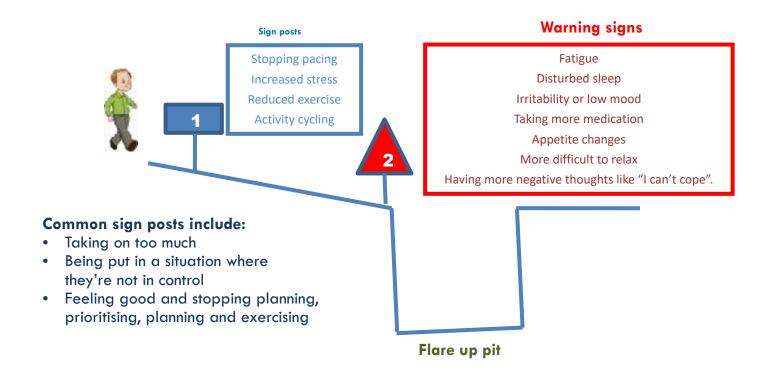
Flare up management plan

Develop a practical plan to manage a flare up if you can't stop it happening

Set backs: Prevention and Management

Sign posts and warning signs





Set Backs: Have a Plan!



- Even with the best of planning it may be impossible to avoid a flare up
- It is important to have a plan to follow
 - Having a plan is much better than not knowing what to do
 - It enables you to stay in control even if the pain is worse
 - It will generally help you to manage it more confidently and recover more quickly





Individual Setback Plan

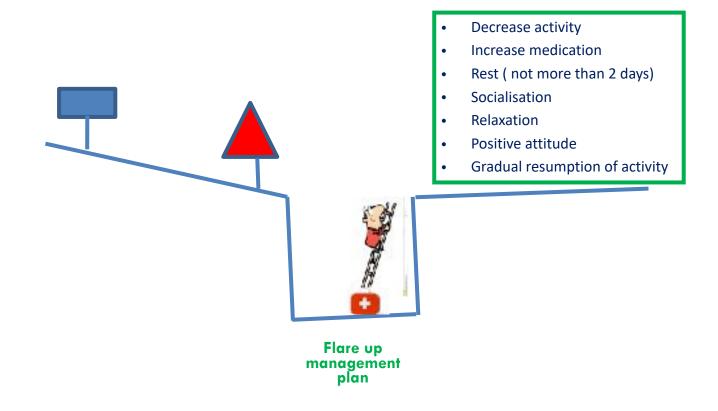




Free think

What might be helpful to have in a flare up management plan?

Set backs: Prevention and Management



What helps you during a Setback?

- Distractions and/or Not talking about it
- Rest and/or Lie down
- lce packs
- Engage the senses & treats e.g. Drinking cola, smelly candle, nice bath, Massage, Heat
- Gentle stretching
- Something social e.g. Going out
- Glass of wine
- Flare up "Box"
- Knowing when to stop/pause/rest
- Use of supports/splints and aids during the flare up
- Medication (speak with your prescriber)



Developing a Setback Plan

The things that help me get through setbacks

Add as many ideas as you like

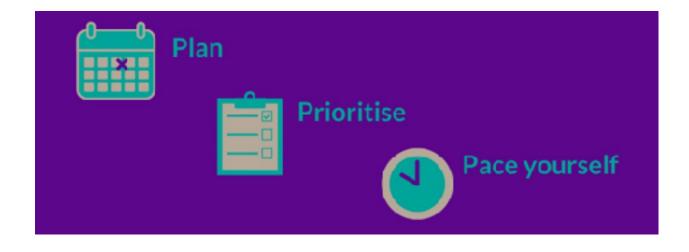
Of you need inspiration, look at the list on the previous page or talk it though with someone who looks you – a friend, family members doctor or other pactitioner)

Rest



You may find it useful to share this seback plan with the GP or other practitioner who is supporting you to manage your pain.

The three Ps



My "Setback box"





Lived Experiences

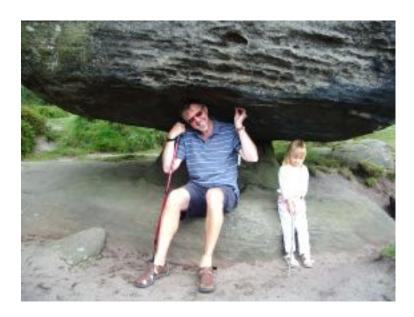




Managing Setbacks

Tim: Setbacks

I am my own solution!



Resources

https://livewellwithpain.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/ 2022/11/Managing-setbacks.pdf





When should I seek professional advice?



- New symptoms that you are not familiar with?
 - Experiencing <u>new</u> changes in your health,
 e.g. Unexplained weight loss, fever or temperature, changes in bladder or bowel control, significant weakness
 - New injury or trauma that caused existing symptoms to worsen, &/or New symptoms e.g. a fall or car accident?
- Using flare up skills for at least two weeks and your symptoms are continuing to worsen?

Caveat: Check in with expectations

Dealing with setbacks

Key ideas

- ✓ Setbacks are likely to occur but can pass.
- ✓ Working through the other footsteps can reduce the risk of setbacks.
- ✓ It is important to encourage patients to plan for setbacks

Refresher of The Ten Footsteps

Footstep 1 — Pain and the Brain

Footstep 2 – Acceptance

Footstep 3 - Pacing

Footstep 4 - Goal Setting

Footstep 5 - Relaxation & Mindfulness

Footstep 6 - Sleep

Footstep 7 - Communication

Footstep 8 - Mood

Footstep 9 - Medication & Nutrition

Footstep 10 – Managing set-backs



1. Score your confidence to enable a person with chronic pain to engage with self management skills

0 (no at all confident) – 10 (absolutely confident)

2. If the confidence level **has changed** since the last session Share **two reasons** in the chat

Thank You!

Sign up on the website for regular newsletters and any news updates including new events or additional resources added to the website

Ten Footsteps Training Plus+ Regular one hour online sessions throughout 2023 led by Frances Cole and other LWWP members to help with use of skills in the workplace and problem solve

Free to attend for delegates who have completed the Ten Footsteps Training Programme. Contact info@livewellwithpain.co.uk providing completed post training evaluation and obtained certificate

- Course certificate details of how to access will be sent via email
- Course evaluation online questionnaire: https://nclpsych.eu.qualtrics.com/ife/form/SV d6cKIQLslQcST6m.



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