

Supplementary file 2

Amendments to the trial design and procedures

- 1) Inclusion of therapy, healthcare and non-clinical assistants (Bands 2-4) to more accurately reflect the make-up of multidisciplinary stroke teams (MDT);
- 2) Establishing use of a monthly 'Learning Log' for intervention staff to encourage reflection and reporting of implementation experiences, identify the need for additional support or training, and to quantify the time implications of using the intervention for HE evaluation;
- 3) Changing the patient inclusion criteria to first and / or recurrent strokes, as it was considered that the intervention could benefit this population as well;
- 4) Extending the recruiting period after admission of patients to both study sites from within ten days to within twenty days after admission, again for the above reason;
- 5) Enhancing the study dataset to include the collection of anonymised routine demographic and clinical data. If a patient did not meet the inclusion criteria due to capacity impairments or declined to take part, routinely collected data over a nine-month period were anonymised by the clinical team and made available for comparison between stroke units.