

## **TRAINING AND PROVISION CONCERNING POWER WHEELCHAIR DRIVING: A SURVEY COMPARING PRACTICES IN FRANCE AND UNITED KINGDOM**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Objectives: This survey was conducted as part of the European project INTERREG ADAPT, which aims to develop new assistive technologies including smart wheelchairs and powered wheelchair simulator, through French and British professionals involved in training and provision of Powered Wheelchairs (PW). The purpose of this survey is to report on practices related to training and assessing the driving of PW.

### Design

The survey was based on a literature review and exploratory interviews with French and British experts in training and PW provision. The questionnaire topics included the profile of respondents, PW training of the clinicians, driving training practices and driving assessment practices. The online questionnaire was sent to rehabilitation units in France, and NHS services in United Kingdom (UK), involved in the training and provision. The study received the HRA and HCRW Approval. The online questionnaire was open from November 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018.

### Results

359 questionnaires have been completed. Common points emerge from this survey: Professionals declare themselves highly competent in a comparable way in training support or in provision. The absence of a standardized process or the lack of the use of standardized grid in the evaluation is also a common element. Some points also statistically diverge, as the profile of the trainers, more occupational therapists centered in France, and the training, that is organized during the initial formation in France, and during update formation in UK.

### Conclusions

While there is a basic form of consensus regarding tasks training, the modalities of training process and assessment are relatively subjective in both French and UK sides. This survey is in line with the conclusions of Le Ray (2012) and Bozec (2013) concerning the limit of practices standardization. Despite the variability and the lack of objectivity concerning the

PW drivers training but also the training of the trainers, it also suggests that practice are not so different in both sides of the Channel.