Module 6

Video 2: Rehabilitation as part of a disability-inclusive health service
Where do you find rehabilitation services?

- Hospitals – inpatient and outpatient
- Rehabilitation centres
- Primary health-care settings
- Outreach services in people’s homes and communities
- Private clinics
- Nongovernment and faith-based organizations
- Schools for children with disability
Who provides rehabilitation services?

A range of personnel may be involved:

**Medical professionals**, including rehabilitation doctors and nurses

**Allied health professionals**, such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, psychologists, prosthetists, orthotists and social workers

**Other rehabilitation workers**, including allied health assistants and community rehabilitation workers
Rehabilitation and the role of health workers

Rehabilitation is part of the continuum of health-care services

Earlier rehabilitation = better functional outcomes

Health workers are often the first point of contact and play an important role in making sure rehabilitation needs are met
Rehabilitation and the role of health workers

1. Identify rehabilitation needs
2. Provide some basic rehabilitation strategies and advice
3. Make timely and appropriate referrals
Identify rehabilitation needs

Health workers can:

1. Identify rehabilitation needs by asking patients about any difficulty with function and participation in everyday activities.
2. Monitor for red flags of delayed development or skill regression in children.
3. Conduct initial medical or diagnostic assessments to inform rehabilitation interventions – e.g. x-rays, ultrasound, neurological examination.
How to include rehabilitation services in your health service

1. Identify rehabilitation needs

Health services can:

Provide **training for staff** on identifying rehabilitation needs and monitoring individuals at high risk for impairment.
How to include rehabilitation services in your health service

2 Provide some basic rehabilitation strategies and advice

**Health workers can:**

Provide patients and family with basic advice for managing **daily activities** and health at home, including simple environmental modifications.

Provide some **basic assistive technology** or direct to local providers (e.g. pharmacy, market).
How to include rehabilitation services in your health service

2. Provide some basic rehabilitation strategies and advice

Health services can:

Have some basic assistive technology available for hire

Collaborate with a local rehabilitation provider or DPO to develop written information with basic advice and strategies for a range of impairments

Provide training for staff on basic advice and strategies
How to include rehabilitation services in your health service

Make timely and appropriate referrals

Health workers can:

- Familiarize themselves with available local services and referral mechanisms

  Refer patients to rehabilitation providers where available

  Provide patients with information about any financial and transportation assistance schemes
How to include rehabilitation services in your health service

3 Make timely and appropriate referrals

Health services can:

Create a directory or list of rehabilitation service providers in the local area and contact them to establish linkages and referral pathways

Ensure staff are aware of this directory
Step 5: Activity: Simple steps to include basic rehabilitation within health services

Step 6: Activity: Mapping your local rehabilitation services