



Expression of Interest in a research study: FREEHAB within session evaluations of a prototype device for improving patients' sit to stand movements

This is an expression of interest only. It is intended to facilitate the rapid identification of interested participants when our study officially begins. If you do express an interest, we will provide you with further information before asking for your consent to take part in the study when the study has begun.

Your expression of interest will be stored confidentially, meeting General Data Compliance Regulations (GDPR) and your information will only be accessible by members of the Freehab research team. Your information will be permanently deleted if you decide not to take part. It will not be held against you if you decide not to take part.

Summary of the study

The Freehab team have designed a soft wearable device that will provide some physical assistance to help the user move from sitting to standing. We are wanting to test this device on a sample of its intended users. The project is a joint collaboration between the University of the West of England and the University of Bristol, and it is funded by the Engineering Physical Sciences Research Council.

Who are the intended users?

The device is intended to be used by physiotherapists with patients who have hemiparesis (weakness of one side of the body) due to a stroke/s, or due to acquired brain injury. 'Participant' in this document refers to patients.

Mode of action of the device

The device will be worn around the knee, thigh and lower leg, with an optional waist belt. The device will detect when the wearer is starting to stand up from sitting. Soft air pockets will then be activated which causes them to inflate; they will provide an assistive force to reduce the effort needed by the patient as they transition smoothly from a sitting to a standing position.

Objectives of the investigation:

To establish the effect of wearing the device on participants' performance in sitting to standing in a single session.

To establish the acceptability of the device and what features should be changed for adoption in clinical practice.

What would participants be asked to do?

In one session that will take up to two hours a participant will be asked to complete sit to stand around 30 times in short segments of 6 movements, with rests in between. Some of these sit to stands will be without wearing the device, some wearing the device, and some wearing the device as it provides assistance. Before these sit to stands, we will place markers on the participant. Special cameras will be able to track the participant's movement. We will also use a range of other measures to help us to fit and adapt the device for the individual user. This session will take place at either Glenside Campus, University of the West of England, or at Southmead Hospital.

Are am I able to take part?

If you have hemiparesis (weakness of one side of the body) due to a stroke/s, or due to acquired brain injury, you have accessed stroke/traumatic brain injury physiotherapy services (NHS or privately), and live in the Bristol, North Somerset or South Gloucester region then you may be able to take part.

I am interested, what do I do now?

If you are interested, then please contact Freehab's Research Fellow, Leah Morris. She will be able to provide more information on the study. Alternatively, please provide your physiotherapist* with your name and contact details which they will share with Leah who will then contact you once the study opens. We will understand if you decide not to take part.

Your interest is appreciated, thank you!

Dr Leah Morris

Leah.morris@uwe.ac.uk Telephone: 0117 3286908

*See the contact form for which physiotherapists are involved in the study.

18.11.2022

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If you would like Leah to contact you when the study opens, please provide your details here. Providing your postal and email address is optional, we will write to you if we are unable to contact you via telephone. The form can be returned to physiotherapists at Domaille Neurophysio, the Specialist Physiotherapist Stroke services at Southmead Hospital (North Bristol Trust), or the Integrated Community Stroke Service (Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucester). Providing your postal address means we can post you a letter when the study opens, to remind you about the study. The study may not open until Spring 2023.

Full name

Contact number

Email (optional)

Postal address

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Physiotherapy service provider

Please return this completed form to your physiotherapist if you are happy to be contacted by Leah when the study opens. Thank you!