

the 1990s, the number of people in the UK with a long-term condition has increased by 50% (Department of Health 2000). The prevalence of long-term conditions is also increasing in other countries (e.g. Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, the USA and the Netherlands) (World Health Organization 2002).

Long-term conditions are a major cause of disability and are a leading cause of death in the UK. The prevalence of long-term conditions is increasing in the UK and in other countries. The prevalence of long-term conditions is also increasing in other countries (e.g. Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, the USA and the Netherlands) (World Health Organization 2002).

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