

# Genetic Counseling in Phelan-McDermid syndrome

Conny van Ravenswaaij-Arts,  
University Medical Centre Groningen, Netherlands

*on behalf of the*  
European PMS guideline consortium  
<https://ern-ithaca.eu/documentation/phelan-mcdermid-guideline>

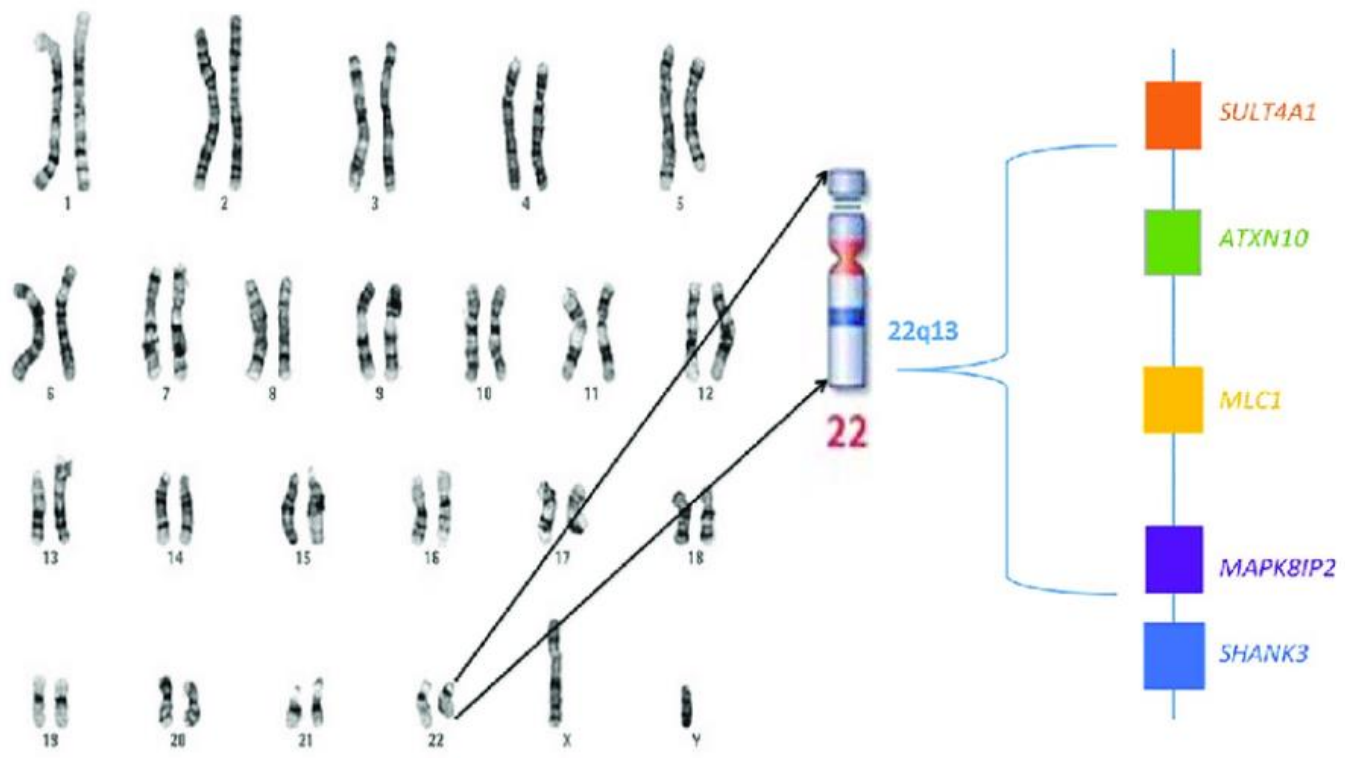
# Conflicts of interest

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- This project was administratively supported by ERN-ITHACA, ERN-ITHACA is partly co-funded by the EU Health Programme
- Funding for the consensus meeting was obtained from the EU Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the EJP RD COFUND-EJP N° 825575
- Individual consortium member were not paid for their contributions to the guideline
- Nothing else to declare

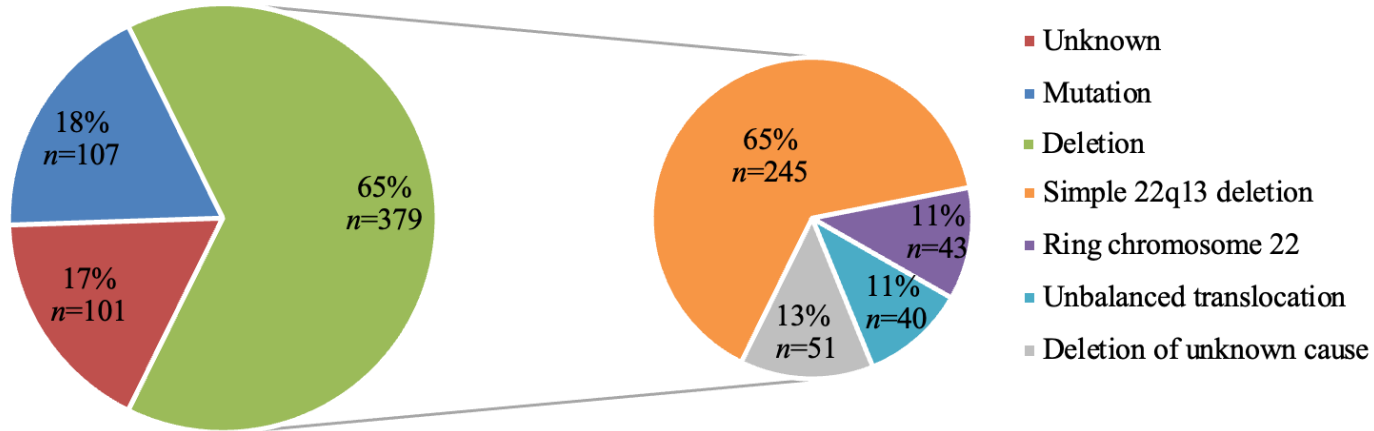
- *SHANK3*-related:
  - Deletion 22q13.3, including *SHANK3*
  - Pathogenic variant in *SHANK3*
- *SHANK3*-unrelated:
  - Deletion 22q13, not including *SHANK3*
- Deletion 22q13.3:
  - Simple terminal deletion
  - Translocation
  - Ring chromosome 22

# What is PMS?



# Survey: genetics

## Cause of PMS ( $n=587$ )



SHANK3 variants in Parental survey: 22%  
Literature: 8%

## Genotype-phenotype correlations

It is important to know the genotype because:

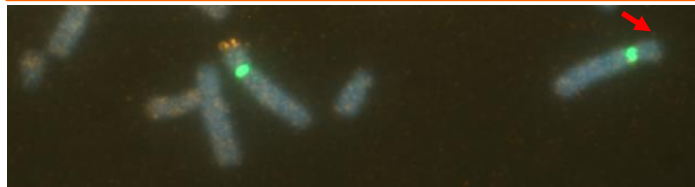
1. Deletions and variants have partly different phenotypes
2. Translocation: increased risk for reoccurrence
3. Ring chromosomes: increased risk for certain types of tumours

# 1. Deletions versus variants

Sign / Symptom	22q13.3 deletions (%)	SHANK3 variants (%)	Sign / Symptom	22q13.3 deletions (%)	SHANK3 variants (%)
<b>Development</b>			<b>External phenotype</b>		
Developmental delay	493/504 (98%)	48/50 (96%)	Dolichocephaly	84/319 (26%)	2/28 (7%)
Speech impairment	507/572 (88%)	31/44 (70%)	Long eyelashes	149/312 (48%)	19/39 (49%)
<b>Neurology</b>			<b>Down-slanting fissures</b>		
Seizures (one or more)	148/542 (27%)	14/53 (26%)	Periorbital fullness	69/239 (29%)	7/39 (18%)
Hypotonia	333/451 (74%)	42/51 (82%)	Ptosis	62/286 (22%)	2/28 (7%)
Structural brain anomalies	118/223 (53%)	12/42 (29%)	Epicanthal folds	122/378 (32%)	8/39 (21%)
<b>Senses</b>			<b>Ear anomalies</b>		
Vision disturbances	70/316 (22%)	9/34 (26%)	Wide nasal bridge	156/349 (45%)	15/42 (36%)
Strabismus	59/243 (24%)	4/28 (14%)	Broad nose	169/349 (48%)	15/40 (38%)
Hearing loss	32/372 (8%)	3/29 (10%)	Short philtrum	22/138 (16%)	0/21 (0%)
Increased pain tolerance	204/314 (65%)	38/48 (79%)	Thin upper vermillion	15/56 (27%)	3/11 (27%)
<b>Behaviour</b>			<b>Thick lower vermillion</b>		
ASD	162/282 (57%)	26/33 (79%)	Malocclusion	109/297 (37%)	10/29 (34%)
Hyperactivity	33/112 (29%)	21/29 (72%)	Retrognathia	29/115 (25%)	0/31 (0%)
Aggression	50/267 (19%)	18/49 (37%)	Pointed chin	154/309 (50%)	18/29 (62%)
Self-injury	10/80 (13%)	8/27 (30%)	Large fleshy hands	180/392 (46%)	11/28 (39%)
Sleep disorder	62/237 (26%)	24/46 (52%)	Clinodactyly 5 <sup>th</sup> finger	79/405 (20%)	10/28 (35%)
<b>Internal organs</b>			<b>2-3 Syndactyly of toes</b>		
Gastro-oesophageal reflux	31/122 (25%)	5/29 (17%)	Sandal gap	30/56 (54%)	6/9 (7%)
Cardiac anomalies	49/387 (13%)	3/46 (7%)	Small / malformed nails	138/438 (32%)	13/29 (45%)
Freq. airway infections	75/280 (27%)	15/47 (32%)	Lymphedema	29/270 (11%)	0/34 (0%)
Urogenital problems	9/62 (15%)	0/24 (0%)	Eczema	48/225 (21%)	14/46 (30%)
Renal abnormalities	20/137 (15%)	0/17 (0%)	Hypohidrosis	31/84 (37%)	2/24 (8%)
<b>Growth</b>			<b>Hyper-extensible joints</b>		
Short stature (≤ P3)	37/392 (9%)	4/41 (10%)			
Tall stature (≥ P98)	84/392 (21%)	3/41 (7%)			
Macrocephaly (≥ P98)	55/329 (17%)	6/39 (15%)			
Microcephaly (≤ P3)	53/329 (16%)	5/52 (10%)			

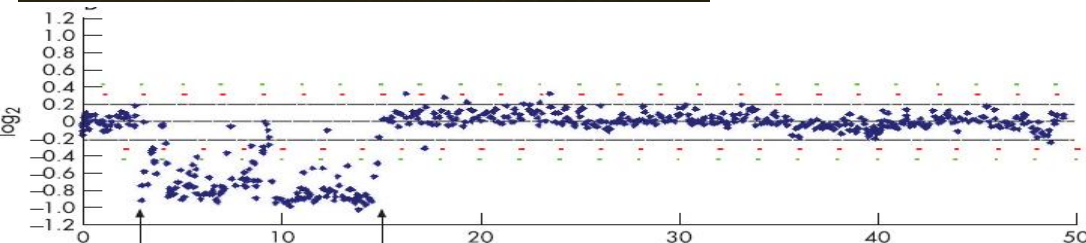


# 2 & 3. Different genetic methods needed



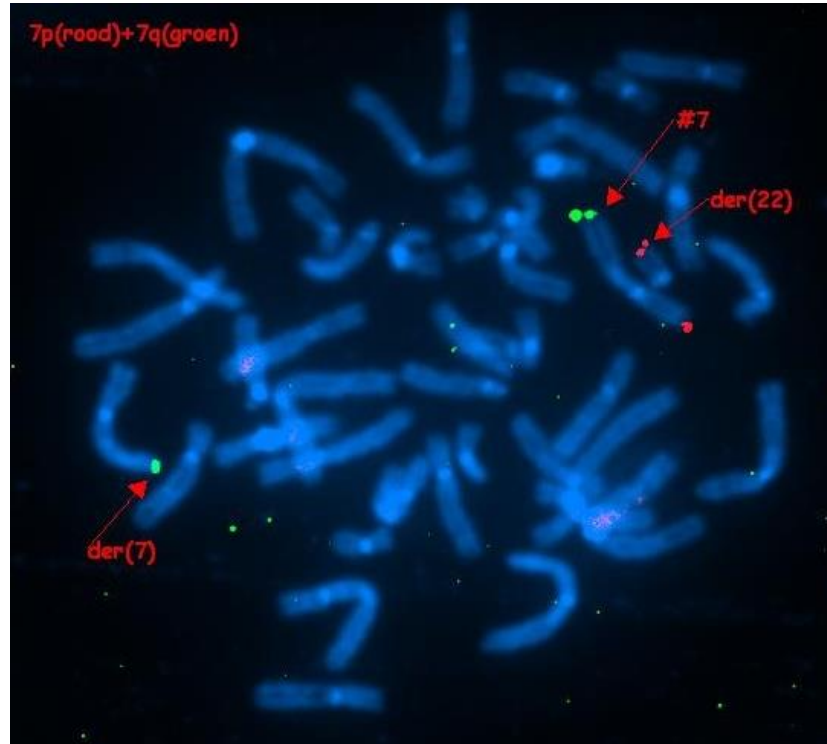
- Karyotyping
- FISH
- Microarray

- Whole Exome Sequencing



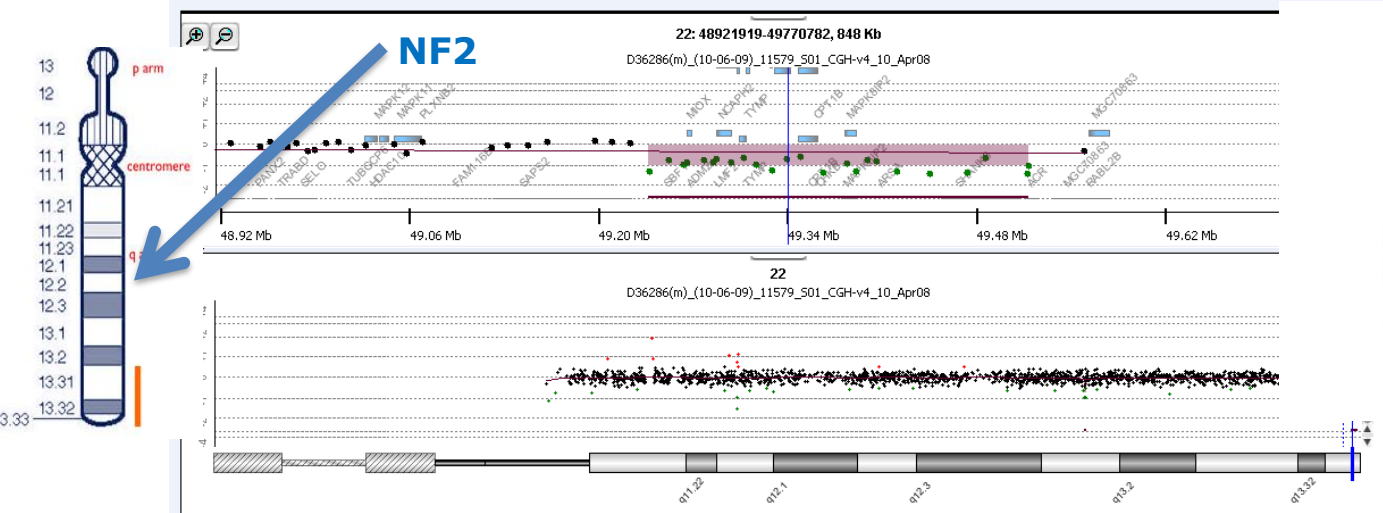




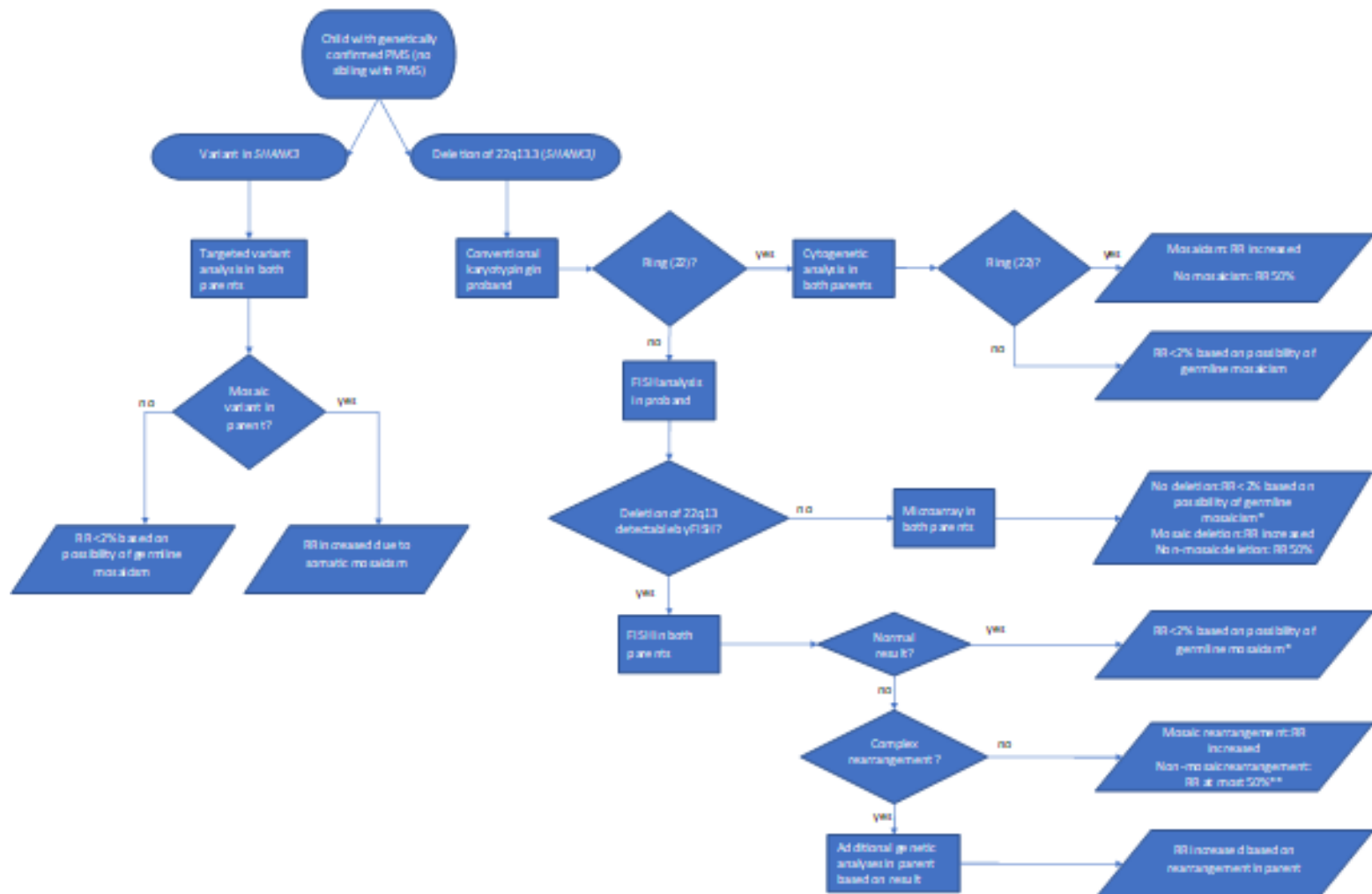


Father: translocation (7;22)

# 3. ring chromosome 22



- Terminal loss 22q13 → 10-20% caused by a ring chromosome 22
- Additional effect on phenotype: short stature
- Mitotic loss of ring + mitotic mutation of remaining NF2  
→ increased risk for tumours (~ 5%)



## 7. Recommendations: Genetic counseling

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- All individuals with PMS and their parents should be referred for genetic counselling. [genotype – phenotype; recurrence risk]
- After a diagnosis of PMS has been made, further genetic studies should be performed for proper genetic counselling.
- Follow-up of individuals with PMS should include a check whether genetic work-up has been complete and up-to-date.
- In subsequent pregnancies, the parents of the child with PMS should be offered prenatal diagnostic testing.

## 7. Recommendations: Ring chromosome 22

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- In an individual with a ring chromosome 22, personalised monitoring for potential NF2-tumours should be discussed with the patient or their representatives.
- In an individual with a ring chromosome 22, cerebral imaging (MRI) is recommended at the age of 14 to 16 years, if not already available. In case of obvious hearing loss discuss with the patient or their representatives repeating of the MRI.

## 8. Clinical synopsis: ring 22

### PMS due to a ring chromosome 22

For detailed background information see [Koza et al., EJMG 2023](#).

Few genotype-phenotype relationships have been reported. However, certain clinical characteristics distinguish Phelan-McDermid syndrome due to a ring chromosome 22 from a simple deletion 22q13.3. A ring chromosome 22 confers increased risk of NF2-related schwannomatosis (formerly neurofibromatosis type 2) and atypical teratoid rhabdoid tumours associated with the tumour suppressor genes NF2 and SMARCB1, respectively, both located on chromosome 22. The prevalence of PMS due to ring chromosome 22 is estimated at 10-20%, while the risk of developing a tumour although not fully known is estimated at 2-4%. However, those who do develop them, often have multiple tumours.

### European consensus recommendations concerning ring chromosome 22

- In an individual with a ring chromosome 22, personalized monitoring for potential NF2-tumors should be discussed with the patient or their representatives<sup>1</sup>.
- In an individual with a ring chromosome 22, cerebral imaging (MRI) is recommended at the age of 14 to 16 years, if not already available. In case of obvious hearing loss discuss with the patient or their representatives repeating of the MRI<sup>2</sup>.

Sirpa Ala-Mello

[Norma Alhambra Jiménez](#)

Britt Marie Anderlid

Stephanie Andres

Emmelien Aten

[Ruí Barbosa Guedes](#)

**Inge van Balkom**

Clara Bonaglia

**Thomas Bourgeron**

Griet van Buggenhout

Monica Burdeus Olavarrieta

[Maya Carbin](#)

René de Coo

Jenny Cooke

**Robert Damstra**

[Stella di Domenico](#)

**Agnies van Eeghen**

Gareth Evans

Kristiana Gordon

Andreas Grabrucker

Cecilia Gunnarson

**Kinga Hadzsieu**

**Raoul Hennekam**

Sarah Jesse

**Sarina Kant**

Larissa Kerecuk

**Sylvia Koza**

[Els de Kuiper](#)

**Annemiek Landlust**

Pablo Lapunzina

Claire Leblond-Manry

Eva Loth

Sahar Mansour

Anna Maruani

Teresa Mattina

**Ausra Matuleviciéné**

Natasha Mikusky

Julian Nevado Blanco

[Susanne Parker](#)

[Flaviano Pinna](#)

[José Ramón Fernández](#)

**Conny van Ravenswaaij-Arts**

[Sandra Robert](#)

Romina Romanielle

Cristina Rusu

**Michael Schön**

Carlo Sala

**Antonia San José Cáceres**

Kamile Siauryte

Annelies Smit

Daphne Stemkens

[Dominque Stiefsohn](#)

**Ann Swillen**

Anne Claude Tabet

[Roberto Toro](#)

[Alison Turner](#)

Chiara Verpelli

Stephane Vignes

Aline Vitrac

Annick Vogels

**Klea Vyshka**

**Margreet Walinga**

Sabrina van Weering



[https://ern-ithaca.eu/documentation/  
phelan-mcdermid-guideline](https://ern-ithaca.eu/documentation/phelan-mcdermid-guideline)



Link to all PMS guidelines materials

# Questions?