

Summary of current research

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First Contact Physiotherapy Module

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Pre-Registration Physiotherapy Placements in First Contact Settings: The Perspectives of First Contact MSK Physiotherapists

Research Objectives

From the Perspectives of Existing MSK FCPs:

- To understand the benefits and challenges of pre-registration physiotherapy practice placements in MSK FCP.
- To understand the competencies and capabilities in pre-registration physiotherapy education that are required to undertake practice education in MSK FCP.

Interview Topics

1. Decision to Choose a MSK FCP Career Pathway
2. Interviewees' Pre-Registration Preparation and how it could have prepared them better for FCP
3. Post-Qualification CPD for FCP
4. Challenges for Pre-Registration Placements in FCP
5. Professional Development Opportunities for Students and FCPs
6. Professional Development Advice for Pre-Registration Students
7. How to Integrate Pre-Registration Students into FCP Placements

Theme: Pre-Registration Preparation

Category: Limited Relevance for the Competencies of FCP

“There are lots of challenges in regards to being able to pattern recognise and identify MSK conditions and where people may be acutely unwell or are vulnerable for various different reasons, such as mental health issues. I don’t think I had any pre-registration training, which would have allowed me to work in that environment [FCP] adequately within the time constraints of primary care”.

(MSK FCP Interviewee)

Theme: Post-Qualification CPD

Category: Post-Graduate Certification

“I have done my injection therapy [course]. And I think the GP practice now are very happy that I am able to deliver injection therapy. If people turn up and it is assessed that they need an intervention like that you are not really saving your GP time by bouncing them back to the GP. They [GPs] want someone who is competent in being able to manage that patient... So the biggie for me was the MSc learning and the injection therapy [course]”.

(MSK FCP Interviewee)

Theme: Operational Challenges

Category: Infrastructural Problems

“Space... Physical floor space. GP practices are very busy and maxed out in their room utilisation. You have got training nurses and you have got training doctors, and now potentially, we are going to have [pre-registration] physiotherapists. I think that operationally [challenge] it is that.”

(MSK FCP Interviewee)

Theme: Challenges for Students

Category: Time Pressures and Stressors

“I think also mentally... There are much higher stress levels in primary care, because you are working within that 15 minute appointment slot. So I think that to put in a student that does not have [clinical] experience and that does not have a large amount of clinical knowledge... To put them in a highly timed and pressured environment with demanding patients, that would probably be very difficult for those students to experience”.

(MSK FCP Interviewee)

Theme: Development Opportunities

Category: Experience Physiotherapy in Primary Care

“They [students] would benefit from seeing a FCP in action, seeing the role that a FCP has, and how it fits with the primary care network or in the primary care GP surgery”.

(MSK FCP Interviewee)

Theme: Integrating Students

Category: Observational Placement

“It should be more of an observational placement, so that they [students] know what FCP is and what we are trying to achieve. They [students] can learn about GP practices and CPN maybe, and mental health stuff. Try and see the bigger picture in primary care and the learning opportunity to know where we FCPs can have an impact”.

(MSK FCP Interviewee)

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Postgraduate CPD opportunities

Currently two pathways available at:

- Postgraduate certificate (60 credits)
- Postgraduate Diploma (120 credits)
- Masters level (180 credits)

1. Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Imaging

2. Advanced Musculoskeletal Assessment and Practice

Also postgraduate certificate in Advanced Musculoskeletal Assessment and Practice (Hand Therapy)

Module title	Code	Credits
Introduction to MSK ultrasound	SE715	15
Technical considerations in ultrasound	SE708	15
Musculoskeletal ultrasound in professional practice	SE709	30
Introduction to soft tissue and joint injection therapy	SE714	15
Musculoskeletal ultrasound guided injections	SE710	30
Skill extension for MSK ultrasound practitioners: ultrasound guidance	SE718	15
Understanding and managing complex musculoskeletal conditions (Distance learning)	SE713	15
Advanced musculoskeletal assessment	SE717	15
Work based learning	SE731	30
Independent prescribing	HS637	30
First Contact Physiotherapy (from autumn 2020)	TBC	30
Postgraduate research methods (Distance learning)	SE747	30
Dissertation	SE730	60

First Contact Physiotherapy Module

- Content based on MSK Core Capabilities Framework
- Findings from Andrew's research will be useful in informing content
- We also want to also teach what you'd love to know (or to have known before you started the role!) – we need your help please.....

Questions

Already an FCP

- What 3 things would you love to have known more about before you started, but had to work out for yourself after starting?
- What 3 things would you still benefit from teaching on, to enhance your current practice?

Want to be an FCP

- What would you like teaching on that you think will help you to feel more prepared when you start your first FCP post?