A Scoping Review to Define Advance Practice in Physiotherapy (APP)

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Background

• First developed after the Vietnam war
• Mainly in orthopedic and MSK practice
• Usually involved an advanced role e.g. triaging, diagnostic imaging, laboratory request and interpretation, injection therapy and prescription medication.
Specialization and advanced practice are two distinct but complementary processes although they share competencies such as advanced clinical skills, professional judgment and clinical reasoning. These practices are not mutually exclusive nor are they in competition: one enhances the other. Both are on the continuum of physiotherapy practice, however the APPs role includes competencies that require training from disciplines beyond physiotherapy.
Rationale

• What is Advanced Practice?
• What **title** do these practitioners use?
• What **roles** do they perform?
• What is the **scope** of Advanced Practice?
• What **competencies** are required?
• What **regulatory** framework supports APP?
Aim

• To identify similarities and differences among national organisations on the use of the **title**, **definition**, **roles**, **scope**, **competencies** and **regulation** surrounding APP.
Methods

Review

• Search strategy
• Published and grey literature
• CINAHL, Medline, Web of Science
• 2 independent reviewers

Inclusion criteria

• Advanced practice in physiotherapy
• No restriction on country
• All study methodologies

Survey

• Online survey
• 114 WCPT member organizations
• Questions advanced practice within each member organization
Results

**Review**
- 1503 studies identified
- 985 Title and abstracts
- 270 Full text
- 170 studies included

**Survey**
- 83 Responses (72%)
- **65%** Formal APP & **35%** No APP
- 24% APP
- 10% ESP
- 16% Consultant
- **50%** others
Definition

• Difficult to define due to diverse roles
• Advanced level Clinical skills
• Complex decision making
• Leadership roles
• Clinical Research/KT & Scholarship
• Professional development
• Education
Roles

• Managing complex, unpredictable and high risk workload (triage)
• Request and interpret diagnostic imaging
• Invasive treatment such as Injection therapy
• Requesting and interpreting Laboratory investigations
• Independent Prescribing
• Pre/post arthroplasty review clinics
• Canada - **Provincial** directives and regulation
• Australia – **APP** is within the scope but **Extended scope practitioner** is outside the scope
• UK Four **Pillars** of Physiotherapy
  • Massage
  • Exercise and movement
  • Electrotherapy
  • **Kindred** methods of treatment* (**APP** falls within the scope)
Regulation

• Legal - Case Law
• Regulatory - Colleges
• Organizational - Hospitals
• Professional framework – Associations
Competency

- Different models
- Formal **graduate** and **post-graduate** level education
- **In-house** training and assessment (**Residency**)
- Competency Framework
Conclusion

• No single universally accepted framework to describe Advanced Practice

• Developed based on the needs of the healthcare within the jurisdiction

• Inconsistency and confusion among practitioners, patients, employers and government organizations
Recommendation

• A unifying **policy document** on APP (supported by WCPT)

• An agreed upon **universal framework** (supported by member organizations).

• Jurisdictions can then modify these frameworks to suit their needs

• To help in understanding APP

• To help establish these roles **across jurisdictions**

• To help patients, employers and regulators better understand the roles
THANK YOU!!!

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