



Module Specification

Physiotherapy First Contact Practitioner

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Physiotherapy First Contact Practitioner

Module code: UZYYCA-30-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS School of Health and Social Wellbeing

Partner institutions: None

Field: Allied Health Professions

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: Yes

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This 30-credit Physiotherapy First Contact Practitioner module is specific to the requirements for working in a First Contact Practitioner (FCP) role in Primary Care. This level 7 module is fully aligned with the Health Education England (HEE) vision and structure for development and sustainability of this role in the physiotherapy profession, as presented in the First Contact Practitioners and Advanced Practitioners in 'Primary Care (Musculoskeletal). A Roadmap to Practice' (HEE, 2020)

This module is bespoke to the specific triage assessment, and decision-making required of the FCP role. It will enable physiotherapists to identify the requirements of the role. This includes developing and adapting their existing knowledge, skills and attributes to meet the musculoskeletal specific assessment, risk identification, management, advice and potential refer-on needs of the role. The synthesis, analysis and criticality required of this role will be directly underpinned by the level 7 expectations of the module.

This module can be taken as a stand-alone 30 credit CPD level 7 module, and primarily aligns with the clinical pillar of the HEE Multi-professional Framework for Advanced Clinical Practice in England (HEE 2017). UWE will seek accreditation for this stand-alone credential, to enable successful students to be recognised as MSK First Contact Practitioners and as such be eligible to record their attainment on the FCP directory at the HEE Centre for Advancing Practice.

This module will also sit within the Advanced Clinical Practitioner MSc Apprenticeship and the Masters Level Advanced Practice programme. The ACP apprenticeship programme and the Masters Advanced Practice programme have been designed to incorporate all the HEE multi-professional capabilities.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: This module aims to provide an opportunity for physiotherapists working in, or developing towards, the Physiotherapy First Contact Practitioner Role in Primary Care to develop their knowledge, attributes, critical thinking and applied practice.

It will enable the level of theoretical knowledge and applied practice knowledge to be critically developed, demonstrated and evaluated.

The module encompasses the complexities of new practice roles in primary care, and the responsibilities of triage assessment and 'refer on' as a Physiotherapy First Contact Practitioner.

The module will be contextualised with the local and national guidelines, the Health Education England Roadmap to Physiotherapy First Contact Practice, and underpinned by evidence-based practice, primary care organisational structures, care pathways in healthcare and service development.

An aim will also be to position this module within the wider advanced practice agenda, and how it addresses the clinical pillar within the advanced practice.

A key underpinning educational aim integrated into all learning will be the development of an ongoing and evaluative personal and professional development plan, to facilitate the First Contact Practitioner role, and the individual self-efficacy in being able to undertake these roles effectively and safely.

This includes leadership, advanced communication, reflexivity and critical evaluation, all within a level 7 framework.

Outline syllabus: This module might typically cover:

- Advanced physical assessment and clinical reasoning skills in terms of history taking, assessment, interpretation of investigations, and management options.
- Understanding of how patients can present with potentially serious pathology masquerading as musculoskeletal conditions, and learn key safety netting and signposting mechanisms.
- Identification of other non-musculoskeletal causes for symptoms e.g. red flags, metabolic disorders, inflammatory or neurological conditions.
- Recognition of the role of local and national guidelines in the pathway management of musculoskeletal conditions.
- Understanding and evaluation of when onward referral into to secondary care may be appropriate based on current evidence and guidelines.
- Consideration of the use of adjuncts in patient management e.g. rehabilitation, pharmacology, injections.
- The role of health promotion in the management of musculoskeletal conditions e.g. to help manage co-morbidities.
- Exploration of how the First Contact Practitioner Role sits within the Multi-Disciplinary Team in primary care.

- Advanced use of technology-based management to improve care.
- Enhanced communication skills with a variety of professions in order to deliver safe and co-ordinated person-centred care.
- Development of strategies to encourage patient empowerment, health promotion and management of long-term conditions.
- Demonstration of understanding and application of legal requirements of working as an First Contact Practitioner in terms of consent, documentation, diversity and equality etc.
- Recognition of the role of service evaluation and audit in First Contact Practitioner services.
- Understanding of how to assess the needs of an individual practice when planning for First Contact Practitioner skill acquisition e.g. prescribing, injection therapy.
- Understanding of the importance of personal research, reflective practice, clinical supervision and continued development in the advancement of the First Contact Practitioner role.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will have 300 hours of total study including 8 online synchronous taught days (of 6 hours) and four online asynchronous days (of 6 hours) of directed study. This will thus total 72 hours of scheduled learning. Synchronous teaching will include a combination of theoretical presentation, small break-out discussions and feedback seminars. Asynchronous sessions will include recorded material, directed research, reflective sessions and use of discussion board facility within Blackboard.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Demonstrate an advanced level of clinical reasoning in the assessment of complex musculoskeletal conditions, including recognition of possible non MSK causes for a patients symptoms in Primary Care, including but not exclusive to inflammatory or neurological pathology, red flags, metabolic disorders, bio-psychosocial factors and masqueraders

MO2 Critically review appropriate investigations and management for patients in primary care, underpinned by local and national guidelines, and pathways for common acute and long-term conditions.

MO3 Analyse and evaluate how First Contact Practitioners fit into the wider health care system, and contribute to the delivery of the NHS Long term Plan, including key health promotion strategies.

MO4 Critically evaluate the role of evidence-based practice and service development within a musculoskeletal first contact role, including approaches to service design, planning, and measurement of value and impact within primary care.

MO5 Demonstrate and critically evaluate ongoing personal and professional development in the first contact practitioner role including leadership and advanced communication, and reflect on how this leads to enhanced practice and service improvement.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: There will be two summative assessment tasks:

Assessment Task 1 will be a portfolio of learning and reflection, related to the student's work as a First Contact Practitioner. This will be mapped by the UWE module team against the HEE Roadmap for First Contact Practitioners, and also linked to the Centre for Advanced Practice requirements. This will thus enable the

student to demonstrate their achievement against the HEE and Centre for Advanced Practice requirements of the First Contact Practitioner.

An electronic portfolio will be developed. This will allow the Module team to provide targeted formative feedback to students when they have made submissions onto the system. The portfolio will include, but not be exclusive to, key learning mapped to the requirements of HEE. There will be a requirement for reflective and critical thinking at Level 7 standards. Students will be able to organise their work based learning activities in a structured fashion.

Assessment Task 2 will be a presentation related to a significant case learning event experienced within practice. The format will be a 10 minute presentation, followed by up to 10 Minutes of questions.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: Portfolio of evidence demonstrating learning outcomes and aligned with the practice evidence required by Health Education England for registration as a FCP on the FCP directory at the HEE Centre for Advancing Practice

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: Individual presentation (10 mins) plus critical questioning (10 mins)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO5

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio of evidence demonstrating learning outcomes and aligned with the practice evidence required by Health Education England for registration as a FCP on the FCP directory at the HEE Centre for Advancing Practice

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5

Presentation (Resit)

Description: Individual presentation (10 mins) plus critical questioning (10 mins)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO5

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: