



Enhancing Professional Perspectives: Development of Physiotherapy Advanced Practice Models in Switzerland

Oral Presentation (Scientific)

Author: Irina Nast Et al.

Background: Rising health care expenditures and an anticipated shortage of physicians require successful adaptation of health care provision and the extension of roles and tasks for physiotherapy. Besides improving access to cost-efficient care, Advanced Practice in Physiotherapy (APP) models add to professional career perspectives, and they potentially increase job retention. Therefore, this sub-project of the nation-wide initiative "Competence Network Health Workforce" aims to develop APP-models for Switzerland.

Research Questions: 1) Which experiences with APP have been reported in Switzerland and abroad, and which experiences have been made with Advanced Practice models within other health professions (e.g. nurses)? 2) What kind of APP-elements can we recognize today in Switzerland? 3) What ideas and visions do different key stakeholders have related to APP? 4) Based on the gained knowledge of research questions 1-3: which APP-models might serve for efficient health care provision and improve job retention of physiotherapists in Switzerland?

Method and Material: The project lasts from 2017 to 2020. The following methods serve to answer our research questions 1-4: 1) a literature search on experiences with Advanced Practice in the databases Web of Science and PubMed, 2) qualitative interviews and a quantitative survey on existing APP-elements in Switzerland, 3) qualitative interviews on ideas and visions related to APP, and 4) a stakeholder workshop for the synthesis of knowledge in APP-models.

Results: In October 2018, the complete results from the literature review will be available. The search strategy produced 1210 references potentially related to Advanced Practice in physiotherapy or in other health professions. Of these references, 150 met the inclusion criteria for the literature synthesis. These publications reported experiences with Advanced Practice in the field of physiotherapy (43 %), nursing (43 %), midwifery (3 %), and occupational therapy (1 %). In 10 %, the term "Advanced Practice Provider" was used without any specification of the basic professional background of the providers. The included publications originate from the USA (36 %), Canada (18 %), Australia (16 %), UK (15 %) and Ireland (4 %). Very few publications (1-2 each) originated from Switzerland, Austria, Spain, Sweden, Israel, and China. Knowledge on Advanced Practice reported in these publications is currently analysed regarding the definition of Advanced Practice, education of Advanced Practice providers, general experiences (risks and benefits including potential job retention) with Advanced Practice as well as barriers and facilitators for Advanced Practice-implementation in the given health care settings.

Discussion and Conclusion: To date there is no clear definition of APP. A comprehensive overview on the concept of Advanced Practice will be provided and serve as a basis for all the development of questionnaires and interview guidelines used in the following project phases and b) a critical reflection of future APP-models in Switzerland.