

5

facts about advanced practice physiotherapy



1



Advanced practice (AP) physio roles require high levels of clinical expertise

AP roles are distinct from standard physio practice due to:

- high levels of clinical expertise and experience required to assess and independently manage specific patient cohorts
- high-level decision-making and risk management required
- unique environments in which AP physios typically work.

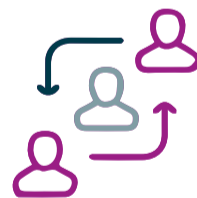


3

AP physios have high diagnostic agreement with specialists

Studies reveal that AP physios:

- were as effective as orthopaedic surgeons in the diagnosis of musculoskeletal conditions
- had high diagnostic agreement with surgical findings or medical imaging
- had high diagnostic agreement with paediatric orthopaedic specialists and, in physio-led LBP triage clinics, with neurosurgeons
- physio-led triage clinics were as effective as normal care when measuring self-reported, health-related outcomes.



5

AP emergency department physios provide high-quality emergency care

Studies reveal that patients seen by primary care physios in the ED:

- had a significant reduction in length of stay and wait time compared to usual care
- had improved pain control and reduced opioid use time to first analgesia
- were more likely to be discharged with minimal or no misdiagnoses or adverse effects and reduced disability in the short term
- were managed independently without medical officer support in 50% of cases
- reported high levels of satisfaction.



2



First contact physio practitioners can manage musculoskeletal conditions effectively

Use of AP practitioners in primary healthcare settings leads to:

- reduced musculoskeletal case loads for medical staff in primary healthcare
- the identification and referral of patients presenting with serious pathologies
- a reduction in the number of referrals to specialist services such as orthopaedics
- reduced waiting lists and waiting times for specialist care
- high patient satisfaction.



4

AP physios effectively manage simple fractures in virtual fracture clinics

Virtual fracture clinics have been shown to:

- reduce footfall in hospitals
- reduce costs via fewer appointments and X-rays
- provide high patient satisfaction
- provide good functional outcomes.



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