



Patient Reported Outcomes Measures Data Pilot

Physiotherapist Information Sheet

What is the aim of the Patient Reported Outcomes Measures (PROMs) Data Pilot?

The aim of the project is to test the feasibility of collecting Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) data from patients with particular conditions, who are receiving physiotherapy treatment. The project will test the ability to on-board practices, practitioners and patients in the process of collecting PROMs data. We are also testing the viability of the identified software platforms to collect pre-determined patient information, coding of conditions, outcome scores, and compliance levels in the private practice setting and then export this de-identified data in an appropriate format to the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA).

PROMs are standardised and validated tools which measure patient outcomes, including quality of life or symptoms related to a specific disease or condition, typically using a numerical score. It is this score that we will capture in the pilot.

Why is this Project important?

This pilot is designed to drive quality improvement and innovation for the profession. Patient reported outcome data is becoming increasingly important in demonstrating the effectiveness of healthcare. Currently this data is collected on an ad hoc basis in clinical practice, and there is no uniform digitised process for collecting and reporting on it in private practice.

It is important that the physiotherapy profession understand how to utilise this data for further research about the effectiveness of physiotherapy intervention, and to advocate for physiotherapy services and to improve patient outcomes.

The pilot will work with current software providers to ensure consistency across platforms. Insights from the pilot will also allow us to influence the future direction of other PROM platforms to grow the available source of consistent data that the APA may be able to collect and analyse.





Does this project have ethics approval?

Ethics approval has been received from Macquarie University HREC in Sydney. This HREC participates in National Mutual Acceptance of ethics which means this HREC can provide ethics for all States and Territories in Australia.

How is the Project funded?

The project is funded by the Physiotherapy Research Foundation and is managed by the Australian Physiotherapy Association with support from Macquarie University

What is the Project Governance?

This project is a partnership between the APA and Macquarie University; the APA is the project sponsor. The Project team is made up of the APA and Macquarie University Project Teams.

What is the design of this project?

The project is non-randomised, non-intervention pilot project? There is no control group.

How will practices be invited to take part?

The two platforms that will be used are Physitrack and MyScoreIt. APA will invite MyScoreIt users through its member communications and networks. Physitrack will use its established communication channels to invite users that a pilot is being undertaken in conjunction with the APA and encourage its physiotherapy users to participate.

What training and support is provided for physiotherapists?

Physiotherapists will be trained by APA Project team in the consent and data collection process. For those practices using the MyScoreIt platform, instruction will also be provided through an on-boarding video which will be developed by the APA with MyScoreIt input. Physitrack with the assistance of APA communications team will on-board existing users. The APA project team will be available for support with this project.

What is the role of physiotherapists in this project?

The physiotherapist will be responsible for gaining patient consent and selecting the appropriate knee condition. The physiotherapist will not be required to transmit any data.

What patients' are eligible to be participants in this project?

English speaking patients aged over 18 years of age with a knee condition are eligible, and can be asked to consent to participate in this project.

If a patient consents to be a participant, what are the risks and benefits?

There are no risks but the benefits may be that we gain a better understanding of how to effectively collect PROMs, which in turn will enhance our understanding of the efficacy of physiotherapy interventions. A better understanding of the effectiveness of interventions could in turn lead to





better outcomes for patients. Collecting PROMs will also enable you to track your patients' progress and easily report patient outcomes to third-party payers.

How will we seek patient consent?

After instruction from the physiotherapist, they will be prompted through electronic means (email) to also consent before their information can be collected. Consent will then be recorded on Physitrack or MyScoreIt by the physiotherapist. The patient can withdraw their consent at any time.

How many patients will physiotherapists be asking to participate?

All eligible patients can be asked to participate as there will be no change to standard care.

How will information for the project be collected?

The project uses existing data collection processes from the PROM platforms (MyScoreIt and Physitrack). De-identified information about patients who have consented (participants) will be sent electronically to the APA in csv format from each of the PROM platforms.

What type of information will be collected?

Measure	Detail
Patient characteristics & other demographic measures	Age/year of birth, gender, BMI, condition, postcode.
Encounter/contact indices	Date that PROM score was collected.
PROM tools and measures	IDKC – Acute conditions – numerical score KOOS – Chronic conditions – numerical score

Who owns the information?

All analysed data will be owned by the APA.

Use of information collected by the Project

The information collected from this project will be used to prepare reports for the APA Board. The outcome measures to be reported at the end of the pilot are:

- Number of patients and practitioners that agreed to share information
- Percentage of patients that responded to initial and follow up survey

Qualitative assessments will also report on the:

- Ability to extract data to APA in agreed format and quality of the data
- Satisfaction survey results for physiotherapists and patients
- Barriers and enablers to data collection



Security of information collected by the Project

APA will be responsible for the protection of data from loss, misuse and unauthorised access. The Data Custodian (APA Chief Executive Officer) will be responsible for this role. Further, the Project Operational Team, led by Jenny Aiken, (Chair Physiotherapy Research Foundation) will be consulted on all matters brought to its attention with regard to concerns about data security.

How will the collected information be transported to APA?

Information will be transmitted electronically in csv format and stored on password-protected server on APA servers in Australia. Data accessed during the analysis phase will be stored in APA-supported database applications only.

Where and for how long is the information going to be kept?

Data will be kept for a minimum period of 5 years. After the minimum period of storage, the data may be considered for disposal. If the data is ultimately used for any other research this will be subject to further ethics approval. Electronic data will be stored on password-secured databases only. The data custodian will be responsible for data storage consistent with the MQU *Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*.

Who will be able to access this information?

The patient will have access to their own data. The physiotherapist will have access to all their patient's data. The practice principal will be able to access aggregated practice and practitioner data.

The APA will only have access to data that is de-identified in terms of practice, practitioner and patient information. The APA will have no ability to identify individual patients or be able to compare practitioners or practices against each other.

Can physiotherapists decide to withdraw from this project?

Physiotherapists reserve the right to withdraw their participation.

What can we do if we have concerns about data security, research misconduct or complaints?

Physiotherapists can report any breaches in data security or research misconduct or complaints to:

- project partners/staff,
- APA directly, and/or
- The Macquarie University Human Research Ethics Committees (HREC), who will continue to provide oversight as the project progresses. You can contact the Ethics Committee with any concerns about the safety and fairness of the Project (HREC number 52020652115741) at: Director, Research Ethics & Integrity (telephone (02) 9850 7854; email ethics@mq.edu.au).

Thank you on behalf of the PROM Project Team

