

Physiotherapist - a career in the NHS for graduates in physiotherapy

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Consultant physiotherapist: a career goal achieved

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Abstract:

In 2008, the UK Department of Health announced that a new role, that of the consultant allied health professional, was to be developed and that there would be a significant increase in the number of posts available. This article describes the implications of the nursing, midwifery and health visitor roles, which have been successfully implemented across the UK, and the challenges of developing a similar role for the better outcome for patients by retaining clinical excellence with the service and improving patient care. The role of the consultant physiotherapist will involve the patient journey and improve standards of care. The roles were designed to allow clinicians to work more effectively and efficiently, to support the delivery of care, to manage and lead services. The beliefs of these new posts were to be based on the principles of leadership, management, research, education, and also contribute to teaching and research. This paper examines how these principles can be applied to the consultant physiotherapist role, recognising that the new posts holder will be a leader, a manager, a researcher, an educator and a clinician. It also highlights the need for the consultant physiotherapist to be a role model, to become the role model for the rest of the profession.

Keywords: clinical expert, consultant, development of posts, future

Introduction

The National Health Service (NHS) Plan [DH 2000] highlighted the creation of a new role of the consultant allied health professional (CAHP). The CAHPs will be clinical experts of clinical, expert, professional, roles; educate, train and manage staff; and manage resources. The post-holders would develop clinical protocols and guidelines, and would be responsible for providing a pathway for experienced clinicians to develop their skills and expertise. The target for a total of 250 consultant AHP posts to be created by 2008-09 was not met. In addition, there was no recognition of the importance of the role in the development of the post, and there was no regard of the potential of the role to develop and help develop the posts. This may explain why implementation of the CAHP role in the National ATHPs nationalities at the time of writing in 2009. It is difficult to be precise about numbers

since posts are continually being created and lost.

Role of the consultant physiotherapist

In June 2002, the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) published a document stating that the role was believed consultant physiotherapists would contribute to the delivery of high quality healthcare to patients. In reality, the postholders have

Figure 1 Career options within the National Health Service (NHS) extended practice framework (Revised version of the Framework for the Development of the Extended Role of the Physiotherapist, *Physiotherapy, Communication and Learning: A Guide for Education and Training for Extended Practice in the NHS* (CSP, 2002)).

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Physiotherapist

Being able to move functionally is an essential part of what it means to be healthy.

Physiotherapist job profile

Through the programme, you will have developed key employability skills e.g. As a physiotherapist, you could specialise in a particular area such as sports injuries, critical care, or work with the elderly, children or cancer patients.

Sports physiotherapist

Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Chertsey, Surrey Clinical Specialist Children's Physiotherapist Paediatrics Children's Physiotherapist 22. . Your salary will be between £22,500 - £27,120, dependant on your experience, training and the location where you work.

Physiotherapist job profile

We work to promote normal development within children.

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