Reviewer's report

Title: Physiotherapists' views on certification, specialization and extended role practice in rheumatology in Canada

Version: 1 Date: 24 December 2008

Reviewer: Anita Atwal

Reviewer's report:

All are compulsory comments

The certification, specialization, and extended scope of practice is the aim of the paper however is not dwelt with the attention that is needed.

Need to emphasis the role of OT and PT- and the fact that this is an interprofessional area in which skills overlap. More over what happens to professional identity e.g. hand therapists can be either PTs or OTs

The history surrounding extended practitioners is far more complicated then the authors suggest- the drivers in each individual country are different.

However you need to review the evidence supporting the role of PT and OTs in this area- is there any. If so why expand the role. Is it not better to gain the evidence?

What is happening on other countries? Courses are running in the UK.

Why didn’t you include other professionals? What not an international survey? why not interviews? The questions in the questionnaire are very general anot very specific or related to the aims of the paper. The analysis of the questionnaire appears to be sound

Findings: Not sure what this paper adds: Nothing exciting about current practice and roles in assessment and treatment; 2.) Therapists'

Confidence in arthritis management; content of rheumatology training; and general views on certification, specialisation, and extended scope of practice.

Discussion: Difficult to determine what is new about the findings, other that PTs want to be extended practitioners. Not discussed in relation to other literature that is available

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'