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Perceptions of podiatrists and physiotherapists working together

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Physiotherapists and podiatrists are working closer together in musculoskeletal services than ever before. The Musculoskeletal Services Framework (2006) called for a shared care approach in the management of musculoskeletal conditions.

Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) have been challenged to be open to change “in the way they work, in the roles they play and in the care they give” 1. It has been suggested that changes to healthcare delivery will mean that the current structure of professions may not be sustainable2.

AIMS

To study podiatrists and physiotherapists working together in musculo-skeletal clinics to see how Government initiatives have influenced clinicians’ roles, their understanding of inter-professional working, changes to their practice and subsequent improvements in patient care.

METHOD

A qualitative method explored physiotherapists’ and podiatrists’ experiences of working together.

SAMPLE: Purposive sampling selected participants who were physiotherapists (n=2) and podiatrists (n=2) that worked together in a joint musculoskeletal clinic.

DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS: Semi-structured interviews followed by a focus group of the participants. The data was analysed using Colaizzi’s procedural steps to create a sound framework for analysing data4.

REFERENCES