

Physiotherapy Research Priority Project 2010 Prioritised research topics - Musculoskeletal

The prioritisation process

61 Expert Panel members were appointed.

Round 1

- 46 panel members responded - response rate 75%
- 185 topics were suggested
- Topics were categorised into 25 themes

Round 2

- 45 panel members responded – response rate 74%
- 48 topics were prioritised to go through to Round 3

Round 3

- 39 panel members responded – response rate 64%
- 24 topics were prioritised.

Topics in rank order

1 st	Exploration of interventions/strategies to increase patients' adherence to/ concordance with exercise programmes	Theme K
2 nd	Exercise as medicine: Prescription of exercise (i.e. type, dosage, environment) for patients with chronic, long-term musculoskeletal conditions	Theme I
3 rd	The clinical and cost effectiveness of physiotherapy for patients with patellofemoral pain	Theme B
4 th	Development and evaluation of physical activity programmes for older people	Theme D
5 th	The role of physiotherapists in promoting exercise and physical activity - preventative healthcare, not only treatment	Theme I
6 th	Effectiveness of graduated rehabilitation for patients with shoulder pain	Theme A
7 th	What are the benefits of physiotherapy rehabilitation for patients with low back pain?	Theme C
8 th	What is the impact and value of physiotherapy on return to work for people with musculoskeletal conditions?	Theme L
9 th	How do we improve the outcomes for people with shoulder impingement syndrome	Theme A
10 th	Management of anterior knee pain in children and in adolescents	Theme G
11 th	Motivating the demotivated to exercise	Theme K

12 th	What is the optimum exercise intervention for individuals with osteoarthritis of the knee?	Theme E
13 th	Harnessing the potential of routine use of Patient Reported Outcome Measures in physiotherapy practice	Theme T
14 th	Effectiveness of self-referral to physiotherapy for musculoskeletal conditions	Theme P
15 th	Do workplace modifications and physiotherapy treatments facilitate early return to work, with cost benefits to the employer?	Theme L
16 th	Early physiotherapy for acute low back pain in a working population	Theme C
17 th	Developing the right tools to assess outcomes of physiotherapy interventions	Theme T
18 th	Effectiveness of early physiotherapy intervention on anterior knee pain in children and young people	Theme G
19 th	The clinical and cost effectiveness of physiotherapy for anterior cruciate ligament injuries	Theme B
20 th	The role of physiotherapy in preventing the next episode of spinal pain; and to what extent does adherence influence the outcome of physiotherapy management regimes	Theme J
21 st	Comparing physiotherapist-led versus exercise professional-led exercise prescription	Theme I
22 nd	New ways of delivering falls prevention therapy for older people	Theme N
23 rd	Developing and testing a brief screening tool that can assist physiotherapists to explore obstacles to return to work	Theme L
24 th	Effectiveness of rehabilitation compared to surgery for anterior cruciate ligament rupture	Theme B

Key: Themes of prioritised topics

Theme A: Effectiveness of physiotherapy management: upper body quadrant problems

Theme B: Effectiveness of physiotherapy management: lower body quadrant problems

Theme C: Effectiveness of physiotherapy management: low back pain

Theme D: Effectiveness of physiotherapy management: specific conditions

Theme E: Effectiveness of physiotherapy management: osteoarthritis

Theme G: Effectiveness of physiotherapy management: paediatric conditions

Theme I: Exercise prescription

Theme J: Public health

Theme K: Adherence to exercise programmes

Theme L: Return to work

Theme N: Service provision

Theme P: Service provision: self referral to physiotherapy

Theme T: Outcomes of care

No topics from the following originally identified themes were included in the final list of prioritised topics:

Theme F: Effectiveness of physiotherapy management: trauma patients

Theme H: Effectiveness of specific interventions

Theme M: Tailored treatment
Theme O: Service provision: early intervention
Theme Q: Service provision: telephone/internet
Theme R: Assessment
Theme S: Co-morbidities
Theme T: Outcomes of care
Theme U: Clinical guidelines: development, implementation and impact
Theme V: Safety and consent
Theme W: Patient-centredness
Theme X: Education / Continuing professional development
Theme Y: Role of the extended scope practitioner

Note: Where similar topics were combined, wording was amended to encompass the content of all the combined topics.

Some topics had minor edits to improve clarity, otherwise the wording of the topic is as originally suggested by expert panel members.

There may therefore be some inconsistency in language and terminology.