

ARE PHYSIOTHERAPY STUDENTS  
COMMITTED TO CONTINUING  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)?

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The Question

- Does the education of undergraduate physiotherapists result in a knowledge of and positive disposition towards Continuing Professional Development (CPD)?

Relevance

- Half –life of professional competence is shorter than ever.
- Little research has been published which addresses the issue of students’ attitudes to life-long learning. This study is an attempt to throw some light on the topic.

Objectives

1. To investigate whether students are familiar with the term ‘Continuing Professional Development’.
2. To explore what activities students identify as being included in CPD

3. To investigate whether students perceive a need to further their undergraduate education in terms of: (a) maintaining (b) developing their skills (c) learning new skills
4. To investigate students attitudes towards participation in formal post-graduate education.
5. To investigate whether students undergraduate experience has influenced their attitudes towards their continuing professional development.

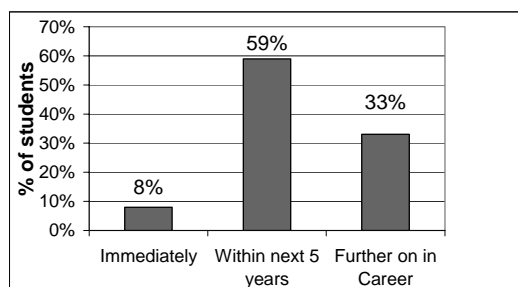
Sample

- A sample of convenience was used.
- Four schools of physiotherapy, three had students in the final year
- Fourth year students from two Schools of Physiotherapy participated in the study
- Participation was on a voluntary basis





### When do you plan to do it?



### Discussion

- Results indicate that students had a good understanding of the term CPD
- Collectively the students generated a comprehensive list of the range of activities that constituted CPD, although mean number listed was low
- The majority recognised the need to be involved in CPD and 85% compulsory

- Suggests that students are not aware of the full range of CPD activities and as a result they had a narrow view of the activities they would become involved in
- Courses were the most popular answer
- This was consistent with Titchen (1987) and Maxwell(1995)

### Conclusion

- It appears that the students' undergraduate experience has given them a positive attitude towards CPD. Overall they also have a positive disposition for participation in further research with the majority intending to undertake higher degrees.