



## Developing a Model for Specialisation Within the Profession in Denmark

BENEDIKTE STEINRUD

*Skovvej 16  
2820 Gentofte  
Denmark*

**PURPOSE:** In 1996 The Danish Association of Physiotherapists decided to establish a model for recognition of clinical specialists. From 1998-2003 The Association developed a model for attributes in the field of specialisation in cooperation with the National Board of Health and Employers Associations. **RELEVANCE:** The recognition of specialisation will facilitate the development and the documentation of clinical skills and theoretical knowledge. Specialisation is a tool that will challenge physiotherapists to improve practice by physiotherapy-specific research and in this way enhance evidence-based practice. This way of developing clinical practice will benefit the patients/clients and the physiotherapy profession. On the whole a benefaction is gained in all aspects of clinical practise in order to obtain the political demands to ensure improvement of clinical quality and efficiency. **DESCRIPTION:** The Executive Committee was aware of the need of specialisation and appointed a Board for Specialisation with members qualified to represent different areas and levels of physiotherapy .The Board for Specialisation worked out guidelines and framework for specialisation, including description of competencies in specialisation and guidelines for applicants to document their competences. Seven areas of knowledge in physiotherapy were chosen as main areas. The description complies with the political demands that were politically required by the Health Care Sector. At the same time it focuses on the aspect of lifelong learning, focuses on the Bologna declaration and is based on learning from practice. In this work the Association has the role as a co-ordinator. This description of a model for specialisation is according to the ER-WCPT concept and the framework on specialisation in physiotherapy. **RESULTS:**The political aim is reached. In the beginning of 2003 two areas of knowledge in physiotherapy were chosen as the first Danish specialists areas by now. The Danish Association of Physiotherapists has recognized a good number of members in six areas. The reaction has been positive among members and chief -physiotherapists regarding the possibility, the high level of education (Master) and chosen areas. **CONCLUSION:** The future work will be to develop other special areas of knowledge. With a global perspective specialist within the same area in Europe should be able to cooperate in describing and documenting clinical practice.

