



Friday 6th November 2020

MACP – Position Statement and options paper regarding Advanced Practice, FCP and HEE

Introduction

The MACP Executive maintain a position that focusses on enhancing patient care, representing the membership and where possible, influencing MSK policy at all levels.

At this present time there are a number of potential opportunities that the Executive Committee recognise as inclusive of all three of those aims. It is these opportunities and associated risks that this position statement/options paper wishes to address for the benefit of members.

Development of National Education standards and Training for Advanced Practitioners

The Health Education England (HEE) Centre for Advancing Practice (The Centre) has been established, working extensively and collaboratively with professional bodies and other stakeholders, to support education and training for Advanced Practitioners in England. This work is not limited to the Physiotherapy profession or MSK, but is concerned with Advanced Practice across a number of professions, including other Allied Health Professions and Nursing.

The Centre's current work builds upon, and is informed by, previous HEE documentation developed in collaboration with NHS England "A multi-professional framework defining ACP in England" (2017).

Health Education England funded a project led by researchers at the University of Birmingham and Manchester Metropolitan University "Accreditation of advanced clinical practice in musculoskeletal physiotherapy: a multi-methods analysis to inform implementation". This was the first study to evaluate the potential accreditation of Advanced Clinical Practice (ACP) in musculoskeletal (MSK) physiotherapy in England.

While a profession specific project, the project methodology and findings suggested wider application beyond musculoskeletal and beyond physiotherapy, for other professions / specialities with established standards / quality assurance frameworks.

Within this documentation there were recommendations suggested for HEE, the MACP and HEE partnership groups. These recommendations are being considered by the MACP in conjunction with the IFOMPT executive committee.

MSK Partnership Group

The results of the HEE funded research were presented to MSK physiotherapy professional network leads and the CSP in Feb 2020.

At this meeting there was broad agreement that the IFOMPT educational standards could inform the development of UK specific MSK Standards, however there was an awareness that this may require the development of additional domains / capabilities to meet current and future UK multi professional practice. The final MSK UK AP standards will therefore be informed by IFOMPT educational standards, the multi-professional framework for advanced clinical practice in England, the musculoskeletal core capabilities framework and equivalent documents across UK countries.

Following this meeting a task and finish group meeting was convened to explore these requirements in more detail. At this meeting, other members of the MSK community were invited by HEE to reflect the need by HEE that this document needed to be applicable to multi professionals working at or towards AP level of practice. This meeting was cancelled due to COVID 19.

HEE therefore commissioned a piece of work supported administratively by the MACP and led by the MSK partnership.

The aims of this work were to:

- Produce an ACP MSK standards document to be used by multi professionals working towards ACP accreditation via HEE.
- Identify the governance and quality assurance requirements of ACP MSK physiotherapy practice as part of the accreditation route
- Identify an appropriate process for the development of an online platform that could be used for submission and assessment of a portfolio demonstrating evidence of the required AP competencies that could be used by individuals from a number of professions delivering MSK care

All members of the MSK partnership were invited to join this task and finish group, with a clear and transparent application process overseen by HEE for the selection of appropriate group members.

This work stream is currently still ongoing and the Standards development will occur in conjunction with the IFOMPT and MACP Executive Committee and other stakeholders to produce the finalised UK MSK AP standards.

First Contact Practice

First Contact Practice educational capabilities have been standardised with a publication RoadMap <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/primary-care/first-contact-practitioners-advanced-practitioners-primary-care-musculoskeletal>.

This Primary Care Educational Roadmap was developed by Health Education England, with support from and in collaboration with multi-organisational, multi-professional, and patient group stakeholders. It builds upon work previously undertaken by the national programme delivered by the Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Alliance (ARMA) and its member organisations, as well as the subsequent work that delivered the Musculoskeletal core capabilities framework for first point of contact practitioners: <https://www.skillsforhealth.org.uk/services/item/574-musculoskelet>

The informed standards within the Roadmap are consistent with the IFOMPT standards that are also the MACP educational standards against which all routes to membership are assessed and subsequently accredited.

IFOMPT has granted permission for the IFOMPT Educational Standards 2016 to be used within this document 'First Contact Practitioners and Advanced Practitioners in Primary Care: (Musculoskeletal) A Roadmap to Practice' and other accompanying documents, this includes both words and illustrations. The Educational Standards 2016 remains the intellectual property of IFOMPT, and any changes and or modifications to this document requires the consent of IFOMPT. IFOMPT supports the use of a single set of clinical and educational standards for musculoskeletal physiotherapists within the UK.

MACP Executive Position

Both AP and FCP developments have been heavily influenced by consideration of the quality standards of IFOMPT. The MACP Executive Committee feel that physiotherapists meeting eligibility for MACP membership through meeting the IFOMPT educational standards are able to demonstrate advanced knowledge of comprehensive conservative management characterised by the analysis, interpretation and treatment of health problems resulting from MSK disorders and are well placed to meet AP directory requirements. This has subsequently placed the MACP in a position of influence regarding future development of the MSK UK AP standards.

There are some important statements of position to be made clear to all members for the sake of clarity and transparency.

Position Statements.

1. The MACP and its accredited routes to membership will continue to be based within the established current IFOMPT standards. These include current HEI and standard portfolio routes and also a new proposed accelerated route.
2. HEE have not yet agreed any MSK standards across Physiotherapy or any other professions. This work is still currently out to consultation. If HEE were to adopt any standards, informed by the IFOMPT standards this would be completed with full collaboration and agreement between IFOMPT and HEE. HEE have commissioned work to develop standards that could be used across MSK, however, this work is yet to be completed and any recommendations would require consultation and agreement from all stakeholders before any standards were adopted.
3. The Centre for Advancing Practice is currently evaluating University courses for accreditation by the Centre. Once this has been completed, the Centre will then explore opportunities for organisations, companies and NHS Trusts to develop routes to advanced practice within their own educational and governance models.
4. HEE is considering working in partnership with organisations such as the MACP to develop a franchise type model that would essentially mean that the educational standards and governance model (once agreed by HEE) would be held by the organisation and therefore members of that organisation who meet the standards would automatically be accredited by the Centre for Advanced Practice. HEE hold the overall governance for this, and ANY limitations in terms of who, how and when members would be accredited by the Centre

would be determined by The Centre alone. The MACP is working with the Centre and HEE to establish if they can;

- Help define the MSK standards and so provide members with the greatest opportunity to gain Advanced Practitioner Status.
 - Offer a Franchise model based on the organisation’s governance and educational models for future MACP members to use to gain advanced status whilst also becoming MACP members.
 - Offer non-traditional routes (Portfolio) in tandem with HEI routes that will encourage current clinicians working in advanced clinics that are not members to become members, and subsequently support them to gaining AP Accreditation.
5. The MACP Executive aims to support the FCP HEE Road Map. It is proposed that the MACP is perfectly positioned to support the educational sign off that the Road Map requires as much of the document is aligned to IFOMPT and therefore, the MACP

Options and Risk assessment underpinning all statements.

1. The MACP Executive will ensure the organisation’s Standards and accreditation of all routes to memberships remain completely aligned with the International standards and governance of IFOMPT. As the UK Member Organisation of IFOMPT, the MACP is required to align completely with the IFOMPT standards and processes, and the MACP Executive Committee will ensure this continues. The governance model and routes to membership enhance the standing of the MACP, within healthcare in the UK and must be maintained.
2. HEE is very likely to adopt MSK standards that are multi-professional. These standards may be consistent with the IFOMPT Standards but could also contain significant variations of the IFOMPT standards to align with HEE MSK Practice.

Outcome	Opportunity	Requirements	Risk	Requirement
HEE adopt IFOMPT informed standards but not exact.	MACP members will near fully map to Adv Practice Future members in HEIs could transfer to both MACP and Adv Prac	MACP members may have to gain additional evidence	Some members may not simply gain adv prac status Universities will have to adapt course structure to gain MACP recognition and Adv Prac Universities may choose to	MACP will have to develop within the CEA and governance structure a (IFOMPT plus) sign off for HEE to accredit this as a route. This will include the standard IFOMPT standards sign off and any

			apply to HEE directly and lose MACP accreditation if a middle ground could not be found	extra required for HEE
IFOMPT and MACP cannot agree to any standards associated with IFOMPT to be adopted as the national HEE standard and HEE adopt something different.	Nil for MACP	MACP members will have to travel through the HEE portfolio equivalence route to gain access. Universities can apply themselves with the IFOMPT standards but would need to apply separately to HEE	MACP members standards are not aligned with HEE and they cannot easily step into the Centre Universities align to HEE and move away from MACP as HEE will FUND HEE accredited courses and not MACP ones.	Collaboration to mitigate The MACP would have to decide whether maintaining IFOMPT status outweighs HEE or the other way round in terms of benefit.

3. The opportunity to support FCP is clear and present. If the MACP do not engage with discussions around this support, the organisation may not have a role in supporting the MSK component of the Road Map competency sign off. Other organisations may step in to undertake this role, risking the MACP becoming obsolete as an organisation involved in delivering expert MSK care, education and research.

Risks to the MACP:

1. If HEE adopts standards that are not IFOMPT informed, there would be an increase workload on members, the MACP's standing and influence would be reduced.
2. IF HEE do not adopt any national standards and assess each process individually, this would mean that the MACP could apply for members and support through current pathways. HEE may not recognise this as a Franchise route as the numbers would be small and so not represent a) Physiotherapy or B) MSK as a whole. This leaves the MACP as it is now, but with little influence and opportunities for other groups to step into the space.

The MACP Executive appreciates members continued interest in the development of the MSK UK AP standards and the potential effects this may have not only on members but the wider MSK community. We therefore aim to continue to brief members on the ongoing development of the MSK UK AP standards.

Helen Welch

Chair MACP

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