



Analysis of activity levels and productivity whilst physiotherapy students are on placement:

Developing a model to include students in workforce planning

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Previous Practice



1 ON ONE



can you help?



Negative opinions from clinicians



Feedback from clinicians at St George's hospital and themes from research completed by Patrick Thoeung MSc (2014)



A change in approach

'team' placements

planning of placements at start of academic year

2:1 model

'rest' periods

peer support sessions

increased placement numbers





Are the negative thoughts justified?

- Aim: Explore the impact of student supervision on activity levels during weekend shifts
- Why Weekends?
 - Purely clinical time – removes non clinical tasks eg meetings and staffing variations
- Who was involved?
 - 2nd and 3rd year physiotherapy students
 - Rotational band 5 and therapy technician



- Caseload
 - Rehabilitation weekend service
 - Patients referred to service by Mon-Fri ward physio

- Data collected
 - Number of contacts
 - Type of patient contact
 - Duration of treatment session
 - Perceived benefit of weekend intervention

Do students increase or decrease activity levels?

- Activity analysis from weekend working
- With students mean 66.25 contacts over weekend
- Without students mean 44.69 contacts over weekend
- Statistically significant improvement $p=0.0009$



Heigh Ho...

Student contribution to managing weekend caseload

- Incidental finding of increased dependency of patients during several placement phases
- Increased number of 'doubles' referred
- Increased number of doubles seen when students working the weekends
- Greater ability to achieve ideal treatment sessions when students were present

Induction Process



St George's Healthcare **NHS**
NHS Trust

Student Physiotherapist Competency Assessment Pack

7 day working Acute Medicine

Rachael Moses and Helen Ricketts

Respiratory Physiotherapy Team

St Georges Hospital

June 2014

Review date: December 2014



Patient experience and outcome

- When students were working
 - Statistically significant increase in time spent with patients ($p=0.0101$)
 - Corresponds with increased contacts
- When students were present: No significantly different outcome when functional ability compared pre and post weekend
 - Same/Better/Worse grading
 - Variation in outcome measures used

Anecdotally

- There have been several weekends where the increased productivity of the students has enabled the rehab band 5 to treat patients on the respiratory rota
- Monday to Friday data
 - Harder to analyse!
 - Increased contacts observed
 - Patients receiving two sessions per day on occasion

Student's thoughts on clinical placements



Outcomes (student perspective)

- Students valued being part of weekend team
- Students loved the team approach
 - Confidence
 - Exposure to different clinical settings
 - Feedback
 - Marks
- Preferred 2:1 model
 - Peer support
- Enjoyed peer support sessions
 - Experience of presenting cases
 - Learning opportunity



Any Questions?

Clinician's opinion

