

Evaluation & implementation of a rubric developed to assess performance standards in postgraduate physiotherapy clinical practice

The Masters of Manipulative Therapy program includes two clinical placement units. The post-graduate clinical placements are conducted across multiple venues with multiple Clinical Educators. In 2008 Performance Standards (PS) were developed for the Manipulative Therapy clinical placements and examinations. A post-graduate student was videoed doing a patient clinical exam and the recording was independently reviewed by 8 clinical educators. Each clinical educator, using the PS, assessed the examination performance of the student. The inter-examiner reliability across parts of the PS rubric was moderate.

For 2009 the PS were modified in response to the inter-examiner reliability study. A limitation of the study was that the examiners marked the video exam separately and did not have the opportunity to discuss the marking process to allow for moderation. The aim for of this project is to repeat the process of 2008 in Semester Two 2009 but with the examiners meeting to view the exam together. The joint review will identify areas of discrepancy in grade allocation. This forum will also enable immediate discussion and feedback on the performance descriptors. The marks allocated for the exam will again be compared to review the inter-examiner reliability.

Currently the project has finished the planning stage and at present is in the process of videoing 2 to 3 post-graduate student clinical examinations. The Post-graduate Physiotherapy students are currently on placement and have agreed to be videoed doing a patient examination. Patient consent forms have been compiled ready to be signed when necessary. At the end of Semester Two Clinical educators will meet together to view a videoed clinical examination. Data will be collated over December and January.