

4.4 Innovator / Manager of the Patient/Client

The sports physiotherapist is responsible for continuing to strive towards best practice. Continuing innovation is required in the pursuit of evidence based practice and the development of sports physiotherapy. The sports physiotherapist operates at a master's level and beyond, with the ability to source and critically review research findings, and to subsequently use new understanding to modify their practice. Sports physiotherapists progress further into involvement with the research process, individually or in collaborations. These activities are described in Competency 8:

8 Research Involvement

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Research Involvement

Sports physiotherapists critically evaluate their practice in relation to new information, identifying questions for further study; they are involved in research that addresses these questions at different levels

Context:

- critical evaluation of practice and identification of questions for further study are relevant to the case manager and advisory roles of the sports physiotherapist in all working contexts.

Behaviours:

- continuous evaluation and development of measurement techniques, therapeutic interventions, optimal training practices, epidemiology of injury risk, and both environments and equipment associated with sports.
- level of research involvement will vary considerably, depending on context and career emphasis, from:
 - influencing the direction of research by the development and communication of research questions,
 - data collection,
 - participation in research collaborations working towards development of grant applications, and participation in multi-centre trials,
 - dissemination of findings through different media.

Specific National Interpretations –

Standards Relating to Competency 8: Research Involvement	
A foundational knowledge	
The sports physiotherapist demonstrates the ability to:	
8A: 1	discuss principles of quantitative and qualitative research design, including the characteristics of a rigorous and relevant research study
8A: 2	discuss the ethical and data protection issues involved in research and the analysis of client data
8A: 3	identify different methods for the analysis of quantitative and qualitative data and appropriate contexts for their use
8A: 4	identify opportunities for communicating potential study questions and new findings, including conferences, special interest groups, and research networks
B critique and synthesis	
The sports physiotherapist demonstrates the ability to:	
8B: 1	critique the design of previous research and explore solutions and developments that could improve the credibility of studies
8B: 2	critically analyse existing sports policies and relevant clinical guidelines
C information collection	
The sports physiotherapist demonstrates the ability to:	
8C: 1	participate in data collection at a variety of levels: this will vary from the evaluation of individual clinical practice to the collection of clinical data within a collaborative research project, or involvement as the principal investigator in a research study
8C: 2	develop and use appropriate systematic search strategies that incorporate a variety of electronic databases and other information sources
D information processing	
The sports physiotherapist demonstrates the ability to:	
8D: 1	analyse data relating to measurement and intervention efficacy at varying levels, including the evaluation of innovative practices to ensure ethical and effective practice
8D: 2	identify gaps in the evidence for practice following review of the quality and quantity of research studies and systematic reviews
E action / intervention	
The sports physiotherapist demonstrates the ability to:	
8E: 1	participate in the process of developing knowledge relating to assessment and measurement, interventions, and injury prevention; this will vary from the development and communication of research questions, to involvement in collaborations and leadership of research studies
F evaluation and modification	
The sports physiotherapist demonstrates the ability to:	
8F: 1	identify opportunities for progressing involvement in the research process
G specific national standards	
8G: 1	