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
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?**
  - 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} 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 $p=0.0009$
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

Student Physiotherapist Competency Assessment Pack

7 day working Acute Medicine

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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

- flexibility
- experience
- knowledge
- theory
- transferrability
- opportunity
- learn
- skills
- feel
- apply
- professional
- new
- make
- feet
- sense
- think
- real
- job
- things
- develop
- real
- pressure
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