



Paediatric Physiotherapists in the Independent and Private Sectors Committee

APCP Information Leaflet

Working as a Physiotherapist in Sport and Performing Arts

As some physiotherapists may work in more than one area e.g. private work and sports work, please refer to each guidance sheet for specific information. There will be some crossover between areas, but also key differences.

Introduction

- ◇ There are an increasing number of opportunities in paediatric and adolescent sport and performing arts. Work can be found in sports and dance academies, schools, disability sports and with national/ international touring teams and organizations.
- ◇ Positions may be full time, part time or voluntary.

Patient funding

- ◇ Self-pay.
- ◇ Via clubs/ organisations.
- ◇ Via insurance companies.

Advantages

- ◇ Expand your knowledge and skills about the young athlete.
- ◇ Opportunity to work with talented able and disabled athletes.
- ◇ There may be exciting opportunities for travel.
- ◇ Some sports and dance academies are at the forefront of new developments.
- ◇ Facilities for patients and staff may be state of the art.

Challenges

- ◇ Traveling, which although on one hand can be very enjoyable, there is often a lot of weekend travel which means time away from family and friends.
- ◇ Maintaining links and communication with the NHS colleagues to ensure joined up services for patients can sometimes be challenging.
- ◇ Multidisciplinary team working can sometimes be challenging because of the variation in work patterns and nature of employment.
- ◇ Ethical and safeguarding challenges may arise with teachers, coaches, managers and parents with regard fitness to perform .



Insurance

- ◇ All physiotherapists must have appropriate indemnity as a condition of their registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).
- ◇ If you are a full member of the CSP (except categories Q-overseas and C-non-practicing), you will benefit from the CSP PLI scheme. This includes medical malpractice insurance and public liability insurance, and covers you for working within almost all settings, in both paid and unpaid capacities, as long as you are working within the physiotherapy scope of practice (CSP, 2017)².

Training (Mandatory / Statutory)

- ◇ You need to ensure you have appropriate education and can work within your scope of practice. At a minimum you need to obtain pitch side / first contact first aid qualifications. You will also need to learn about the sports or dance specific injuries for the area you are working in.
- ◇ Some sports and dance academies will host education and training programmes for employees. Additional education can be obtained from short courses run by the CSP special interest groups (APCP, ACPSEM, IADMS). Additionally several universities run courses in sports and performing arts injury management.

Record Keeping

- ◇ All physiotherapists should adhere to HCPC standards (HCPC, 2013)¹ and CSP guidelines (CSP, 2017)² with regards to record-keeping.
- ◇ The specific organization may have a local policy to follow to suit the needs of the service/setting. This local policy should also reflect the HCPC and CSP standards and guidance in line with physiotherapists' professional responsibility, regardless of the sector that they are working in.

Terms and Conditions

- ◇ Pay scales will vary depending on the employer. Pay scales will normally relate to the level of responsibility, qualifications and experience.
- ◇ In some cases, therapists may negotiate self-employed status, and contracts for this type of work are negotiated between the employer and yourself.
- ◇ Benefits such as sickness pay, access to maternity pay and pension can vary depending on the organization and the terms of your employment and contract. Ensure that you discuss these matters with your potential employer.

Quality and governance

- ◇ Governance and quality standards should be addressed by the organization. When commencing work with an organization, ensure you review the quality and governance standards within your contract.

References

1. Health and Care Professions Council [HCPC] (2013). *Standards of Proficiency - Physiotherapists [online]*. Available from: http://www.hpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10000DBCStandards_of_Proficiency_Physiotherapists.pdf [accessed on 20.4.2017]
2. Chartered Society of Physiotherapy [CSP] (2017). *Record-keeping Guidance [online]*. Available from: <http://www.csp.org.uk/publications/record-keeping-guidance-0> [accessed on 20.4.2017]

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<https://apcp.csp.org.uk>

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