

## December 2024 Editorial

It has been another busy year for the APCP journal team. We have successfully continued with an online, open access publication model, improving both the reach of the journal and access to peer-reviewed content relevant to paediatric physiotherapy practice, education, research and policy. The papers published in the journal this year are varied in their study designs and populations of interest, spanning the full age range of paediatric physiotherapy practice from infancy through to transition to adult services. Despite this variation, all of the papers include important data and results of relevance to paediatric physiotherapy.

Two papers implemented and evaluated changes in physiotherapy service provision in clinical settings. Kettle and Clements (2024) conducted a service evaluation of a rapid response children's respiratory physiotherapy service for children with long term complex physical disabilities, evidencing a reduction in hospital admissions and in-patient days, as well as avoidance of ambulance call outs and urgent medical appointments. Significant cost savings and high parent satisfaction with the service were reported: these data may be of use in the development of business cases to support long term commissioning of similar supportive respiratory services. Knox et al (2024) also examined and implemented changes in service provision using a quality improvement approach. Their study aimed to improve access to early screening and physiotherapy for infants at high risk of neuro-developmental disorders via provision of training for physiotherapists, a new care pathway for high-risk infants and a new physiotherapy outpatient screening clinic. Results indicated a reduction in the mean age at which babies were referred to physiotherapy, and adoption of a range of evidence-based assessment tools. Similar to Kettle and Clements (2024), Knox et al (2024) reported high levels of parent satisfaction with the care and advice received.

Clark and colleagues' (2024) systematic review of the relationship between usage of personal electronic devices and musculoskeletal pain in children and adolescents adhered to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (Moher et al., 2015), enhancing the quality of the reporting of their methods. Interestingly, they found limited evidence of a relationship between usage of personal electronics devices and musculoskeletal pain in children and adolescents but cautioned that factors such as duration spent on the device, type of device, and position adopted, may be associated with musculoskeletal pain in children and adolescents. They conclude that these factors warrant further examination in future research.

Gavin and Levis' (2024) qualitative study of young adults' lived experiences of the transition process from paediatric to adult physiotherapy disability services in a college setting contributes to the growing body of evidence about the importance of timely, planned transition to adult care for young people with childhood onset conditions. The

need for meaningful connections between paediatric and adult services is once again reinforced by the authors.

We hope you enjoy reading the interesting, relevant and innovative research and service evaluations that have been published this year and that they might inspire you to submit to the APCP journal in the future. We have had an increase in queries, expressions of interest and submissions to the journal over the past six months and look forward to that translating into more quality publications in 2025. We welcome a range of research and service evaluation paper formats. If you are considering a submission, please check out the guidance on the journal webpages or contact the journal via e-mail at [journal@apcp.org.uk](mailto:journal@apcp.org.uk) as we are happy to advise and support you with submissions. We will be updating the APCP journal format, processes and webpages during 2025 and hope that will support authors and encourage further submissions to the journal.

Finally, I would like to especially acknowledge the authors, reviewers and APCP administrators for their continued support of our journal. Without their enthusiasm and expertise, publication would not be possible.

Claire Kerr

APCP Journal Editor

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