

Scope of practice prompt questions:

These questions are purely to help and guide your thinking. It is important to understand that even if you answer no to a question, you should still consider the other questions and answers. Reflect on the balance of the answers and your own personal justification, before making a decision regarding your scope of practice.

The following questions are designed to justify your own thinking and evidence your decision making.

Question 1

Scope of the profession

Does your activity or area of practice meets the basic aims of physiotherapy: to enable individual/populations to restore and maintain function, maximising quality of life and/or promoting and protecting mental, physical, emotional health and well-being.

Whilst making this decision you must also consider the following;

1) [The four pillars of practice](#)

- Ensure the activity fits within at least one of the pillars

2) [Context of practice](#)

- Are you working as a physiotherapist? This does not necessarily mean that you have physiotherapist in your title, but that you are still [practising your profession](#) i.e. using the knowledge, skills and competencies you have gained as physiotherapist. Do any of these contribute to your ability to deliver this area of practice?
- It may state in the job description or advert, that you are required to be a physiotherapist or HCPC registered healthcare professional. If it does not state either of these requirements, it is still possible that you will be using the skills, knowledge and competencies developed as a physiotherapist, and therefore still practicing within the profession and personal scope.
- Would your colleagues recognise what you are doing as physiotherapy? It is important to gain peer understanding as it is usefully in helping your critically think about the area of practice/role.

3) Responsibility & Accountability

- Will you be retaining ultimate responsibility and accountability for the proposed area of practice and the care you deliver to your patients?

4) Autonomy

- Are you able to make decisions without the permission of another healthcare professional? It is worth considering that there are different levels of autonomy ([link to paper](#)).

Question 2

Evidence-base

Is there any evidence to support this area of practice? The CSP has expectations of your engagement with evidence-based practice and these apply to any area of practice, including interventions and treatment approaches, models of service delivery and activity in all sectors, settings and roles.

You need to:

- Consider whether peers within physiotherapy or other professions, with relevant expertise and experience, acknowledge this area of practice? This does not necessarily mean that they support it, but that there is a body of discussion on the area.
- Critically engage with available and emerging evidence that relates to your professional activity and service delivery, including evidence that supports its safety, effectiveness and economic value.
- Critically appraise your practice, service delivery and professional development needs in the light of available and emerging evidence, identifying where elements of your approach or activity need to change.
- Engage with and appropriately respond to evidence that challenges the safety, efficacy or effectiveness of a particular area of practice.
- Engage with developments in the evidence base that highlight new ways of meeting patient needs in more clinically- and cost-effective ways.
- Engage in collecting data to evaluate and demonstrate the quality of outcomes and service user experience and to identify areas for service improvement.
- Contribute to identifying evidence gaps and priorities for new research to inform the professions and others' research activity and evidence base and to enhance the quality, research and cost-effectiveness of patient care.

Please review the full version of the [CSP position Statement: Evidence-based practice in UK physiotherapy](#)

Question 3

Risk mitigation

Are you taking adequate steps to ensure safe integration of the proposed area into practice? These could be risks which challenge safety and/or the quality of the service to the patient population or to yourself.

- Please review the [CSP's Quality Assurance standards](#)
- You also need to consider [your individual scope of practice](#)