

Self-Referral (Direct Access) to Physiotherapy IPPA Conference Workshop, 28th September 2005

Purpose

The purpose of the session will be to explore and identify with representatives from a number of world-wide countries:

- ❖ How private practice is funded
- ❖ How these systems work including the extent of world-wide patient self referral
- ❖ Any difficulties encountered with these approaches
- ❖ How much clinical/financial data is being used to support services
- ❖ The potential for international collaboration
- ❖ Future Steps

The session will be facilitated by Drs Lesley Holdsworth and Valerie Webster from Scotland. Lesley and Valerie have been involved in developing and evaluating self referral (direct access) for a number of years and have recently completed a national trial the results of which will be presented at the conference. They have also developed a number of international links and are keen to explore the possibility of international collaborations.

Definition

For the purpose of this work, we are defining self-referral/direct access as the ability of a patient to refer themselves to your services without having to see a doctor or other healthcare professional first

Preparatory Work

Delegates will be asked to come to the session with their thoughts relating to the following issues:

Within your own country:

1. How is private practice funded?
2. Are there any particularly difficulties with this system?
3. What proportion of referrals are self-referrals? (see definition above)
4. How much clinical/financial data do you have/use to support your position as providers of private services?

Proposed Outline of the Session (2 hours)

1. **Update on Progress to date** Overview of the experience in Scotland to date; details of international links made and progression of issues; emerging issues with other countries throughout Europe, Australasia and the USA
2. **International Issues** / themes: Group discussion relating to the preparatory questions (see below)
3. **Future Steps?**: Group discussion relating to the opportunities for international collaboration? How can we take this forward

For information relating to the self referral work in Scotland and associated publications, visit <http://www.show.scot.nhs.uk/nhsfv/clineff/index.html> and scroll to the bottom of the page