

Advanced Practice Summary Report

Project title	Advanced Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy service in the Rheumatology Clinic.
Health Service	Eastern Health.
Project aim	Improving access and care for patients with musculoskeletal conditions by implementing an Advanced Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy (AMP) service in the Rheumatology Clinic at Eastern Health.
Key outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A physiotherapy-led musculoskeletal screening clinic was established in the Rheumatology Department to manage low acuity musculoskeletal presentations referred to the outpatient Rheumatology clinic. • Potential for increased access and capacity for new patient appointments in outpatient rheumatology services with a mature model of care. Throughout the project period (35 clinics), 108 new patients and a total of 182 appointments were conducted by the AMP's in the AMP Rheumatology clinic. • Enabled AMP practitioners to work to their full scope of practice, with AMPs managing complex patient populations including inflammatory and musculoskeletal conditions. Some of these conditions would not usually be managed by physiotherapists. Consultant oversight was required for the AMPs to manage these patient cohorts. • Improved efficiency in the clinic, whilst prioritising safe and high quality care for patients. • Reduced consultant time required per patient with the AMP's providing an effective and efficient workforce model in these busy clinics. • Significant support received from the Head of Rheumatology for the model as it shows great potential to assist in managing the demand in these clinics. • The model of care was developed in close consultation with the Head of Rheumatology with the aim of providing improved care to patients attending the Rheumatology Clinics, whilst aligning to the service demands and requirements of these overburdened clinics. • Developed Operational Guidelines defining scope of practice, model of care, learning requirements to support clinic operations, which reflected the evolving model of care and patient populations. • Developed Training and competency assessment portfolio document to support and guide clinicians with their learning in a new area of clinical practice.
Total investment	<p>Funding provided plus in-kind support: \$94,107</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding costs included: Staffing (physiotherapists, rheumatologist, and project officer), operational costs and paid professional development time for the AMPs to upskill to match the patient population. • In-kind support costs included: Specialist's Clinics clerk, rheumatologist, Director of Physiotherapy, Program Directors, consumer representative. <p>Total FTE to provide service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.2 EFT: Project Officer (Grade 3 Physiotherapist) • 0.26 EFT: Advanced Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy (AMP) clinicians, Grade 3. • 0.2 EFT: paid professional development time to support education and training requirements for the Grade 3 AMP Rheumatology clinicians

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.1 EFT: Grade 4 AMP Team Lead • 0.1 EFT: Consultant Rheumatologist for a period of 16 weeks (to assist with clinical supervision and education of the AMP's managing a complex patient cohort) • 0.09 EFT: Specialist clinics clerk for 16 weeks of clinic operations
Resources developed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training and Competency Assessment 2. Workforce results graph 3. Operational Guidelines 4. Learning needs analysis Rheumatology