Physiotherapy in the UK, an ever-evolving role
History of the role

Marc Seale
Chief Executive and Registrar
Multi-professional regulator

- Social workers in England
- Physiotherapists
- Occupational therapists
- Radiographers
- Biomedical scientists
- Paramedics
- Practitioner psychologists
- Speech and language therapists
- Chiropodists/podiatrists
- Operating department practitioners
- Dietitians
- Clinical scientists
- Arts therapists
- Hearing aid dispensers
- Orthoptists
- Prosthetists/orthotists
Physio stats...

~56,000 physiotherapists on the register

~1000 prescribing

~800 IP
Where physiotherapy began

• Greek physicians like Hippocrates are believed to have been the first practitioners of physical therapy, as far back as 460 BC.

• The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy was formed in Great Britain in 1894 by four young nurses.

• They set up the Society of Trained Masseuses to protect their profession from falling into disrepute.
Global events establish modern physiotherapy

• The First World War, coupled with outbreaks of polio led to a greater need for the development of new techniques and approaches.

• The Almeric Paget Massage Corps was formed in August 1914 by Mr and Mrs Almeric Paget. They funded trained masseuses to work at British military hospitals.

• There was also an emerging role for physiotherapists in paediatrics, treating children with physical disabilities during the polio outbreak.
Further modernisation

• In the 1940s physiotherapists worked under the direction and instruction of doctors in public hospitals, in contrast to the autonomy of modern physiotherapists.

• In 1992, the profession became an all graduate entry profession.
Statutory regulation

The Register

- Standards of education and training
- Standards of conduct, performance and ethics
- Arts therapists
- Continuing professional development and your registration
- Information for registrants
Standards

Katherine Timms
Head of Policy and Standards
Standards of conduct, performance and ethics
Standards of conduct, performance and ethics

- Protecting service users
- Communication
- Working within limits
- Delegation
- Confidentiality
- Managing risk
- Reporting concerns
- Being open
- Being trustworthy
- Record keeping
Standards of proficiency
Standards of proficiency

Safe and effective
Legal and ethical boundaries
Fitness to practice
Professional judgement
Equality and diversity
No discrimination
Confidentiality
Communication
Working with others
Record keeping
Reflect and review
Assure quality
Knowledge base
Use knowledge and skills
Safe environment
Standards for prescribing
Standards for prescribing – education providers

- Programme admissions
- Assessment
- Programme management and resources
- Practice placements
- Curriculum
Multi-professional approach to prescribing

- Royal Pharmaceutical Society Framework
- Nursing and Midwifery Council
- Health and Care Professions Council
- ...others to come on board
Advanced care practitioners

Sonya Lam
HCPC Council member
What is advanced practice in the UK?

Advanced practice is a combination of advanced skills, knowledge and attitudes together with the core set of physiotherapy skills and knowledge, tailored to individual patients and local environments.
What skills are needed for advanced practice?

- Diagnostics
- Invasive treatments
- Advanced clinical care in a specialism
- Complex case management
What are the benefits of advanced care practitioners

• Professional and workforce development
• Innovation transforms services and population health
• Applying advanced skills improves patient outcomes and experience
• High levels of personal autonomy
• Influence across professional and organizational boundaries
What type of roles do advanced care practitioners do?

Generalist

Specialist
How to ensure safe practice in advanced roles

- Advanced studies
- Defined scope of practice
- Structured CPD
- Supportive service models
- Networks
- Regulatory oversight