

POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION IN FAMILY-CENTERED CARE

Perceived Impact on Clinical Skills

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BACKGROUND.

Family-Centered-Care (FCC) is considered best practice in pediatric healthcare services, though its full application as a global reality remains a challenge^{1,2}. Often FCC is considered a “*natural ability*” in health professionals whereas specific training is needed to acquire the necessary knowledge of FCC principles and core practical skills³

The Measure of Process Of Care MPOC-SP questionnaire⁴ is useful as a self-reporting survey to detect perceptions of professionals and identify which FCC principles and abilities are more firmly established in practice and which need improvement³.

The Master in Pediatric Physiotherapy (PPT) at the University of Florence, Italy, includes education in FCC (theoretical framework, on-the-job self-monitoring, reflective practice) to support the integration of FCC in PPT.

OBJECTIVES.

This study assesses the perceived quality of the application of FCC principles and skills in clinical practice of the Pediatric Physiotherapists (PPts) specialised at the University of Florence; and ii) to identify the domains of FCC that need improving in everyday PPT practice to use as specific indications to improve FCC teaching and training in PPT Master in Florence.

METHODS.

As PPT Master 2023.2025 thesis, University of Florence, the MPOC-SP questionnaire validated in Italian and ad-hoc information form, were administered during november-december 2025 to PPts of Master courses 2006-2025. From a total population of 175 PPts, 93 respondents were required to achieve 7% margin of error with $\alpha = 0.05$.

RESULTS.

Response rate was 112 (64%); of these, 98 PPts (56%) completed the questionnaire, 14 did not take part. Among respondents, 54.1% were aged 30-40 years and 46.9% had 5-10 years of professional experience in the pediatric field. In terms of workplace, 44.9% worked in community-based public services and 42.9% in pediatrics hospitals. Overall, 75.5% reported having received enough training to apply FCC. For 4 of the 5 items in the domain “addressing the provision of general information”, more than half of PPts assigned lower ratings (≤ 4 on a 1-7 scale), indicating areas where practice could be improved.

CONCLUSION.

From a preliminary analysis of the data, results are consistent with those reported in the literature⁴. This investigation has allowed to collect information on how PPts specialised at University of Florence perceive their FCC abilities in clinical practice. This data will be used to revise the Master FCC training course to focus on reported inadequacies. In future surveys parents' perceptions of quality of FCC should be assessed with the involvement of the multiprofessional team.

Key words family centered care, pediatric physiotherapists, perceived quality of care, MPOC-SP

References

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