

Four pillars of physiotherapy

Scope for the profession and the Four Pillars

The scope of practice for the profession is not something that can be defined by a simple list of activities. If this were the case the profession would become stuck in one period of time. The first definition of physiotherapy was based on the following: massage, exercise, electrotherapy and 'kindred forms of treatment'. These four elements are known as the **four pillars**.

The definition has evolved in response to changing population needs, developing health and social care technology and practice, a more defined and growing evidence base, and the changing environment from which physiotherapists and other professionals practice.

The current definition of physiotherapy was agreed in 2007 as follows:

'Any activity undertaken by an individual physiotherapist that may be situated within the four pillars of physiotherapy practice where the individual is educated, trained and competent to perform that activity. Such activities should be linked to existing or emerging occupational and practice frameworks acknowledged by the profession and be supported by a body of evidence.'

From <<http://www.csp.org.uk/professional-union/professionalism/scope-of-practice/background-governance/scope>>