

IMPROVING AWARENESS OF SPONDYLOARTHRITIS (SPA) AMONGST RHEUMATOLOGY & MSK THERAPISTS

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PHYSICAL THERAPIST-COLLABORATIVE RELATIONSHIP

01

In the last decade, many health authorities in the UK have integrated specialist rheumatology physiotherapy posts into the musculoskeletal field.

02

It is imperative that these therapists improve their awareness and knowledge in Rheumatological conditions. This will enable collaborate and refer appropriate patients to the Rheumatology Consultant for diagnosis and ongoing management.

SPONDYLOARTHRITIS EDUCATION

[NASS](#), [AStretch](#) and [BRITSPA](#) members have been campaigning and presenting educational seminars on diagnostic awareness for several years.

Between 2012 and 2014 seminars and satellite meetings throughout the UK reached 2000 potential referrers.

[Back in Focus](#) hold regular educational meetings and have produced online modules on recognition and diagnostic awareness.

[NICE GUIDELINES ON
SPA MANAGEMENT NG65
FEBRUARY 2017](#)

Increased awareness

Prompted managers to
measure standards against
the new guidelines

LOCAL INITIATIVES

Facilitated group discussions amongst Management and the Multi-disciplinary team members with regards to the requirement of knowledge and skills experience.

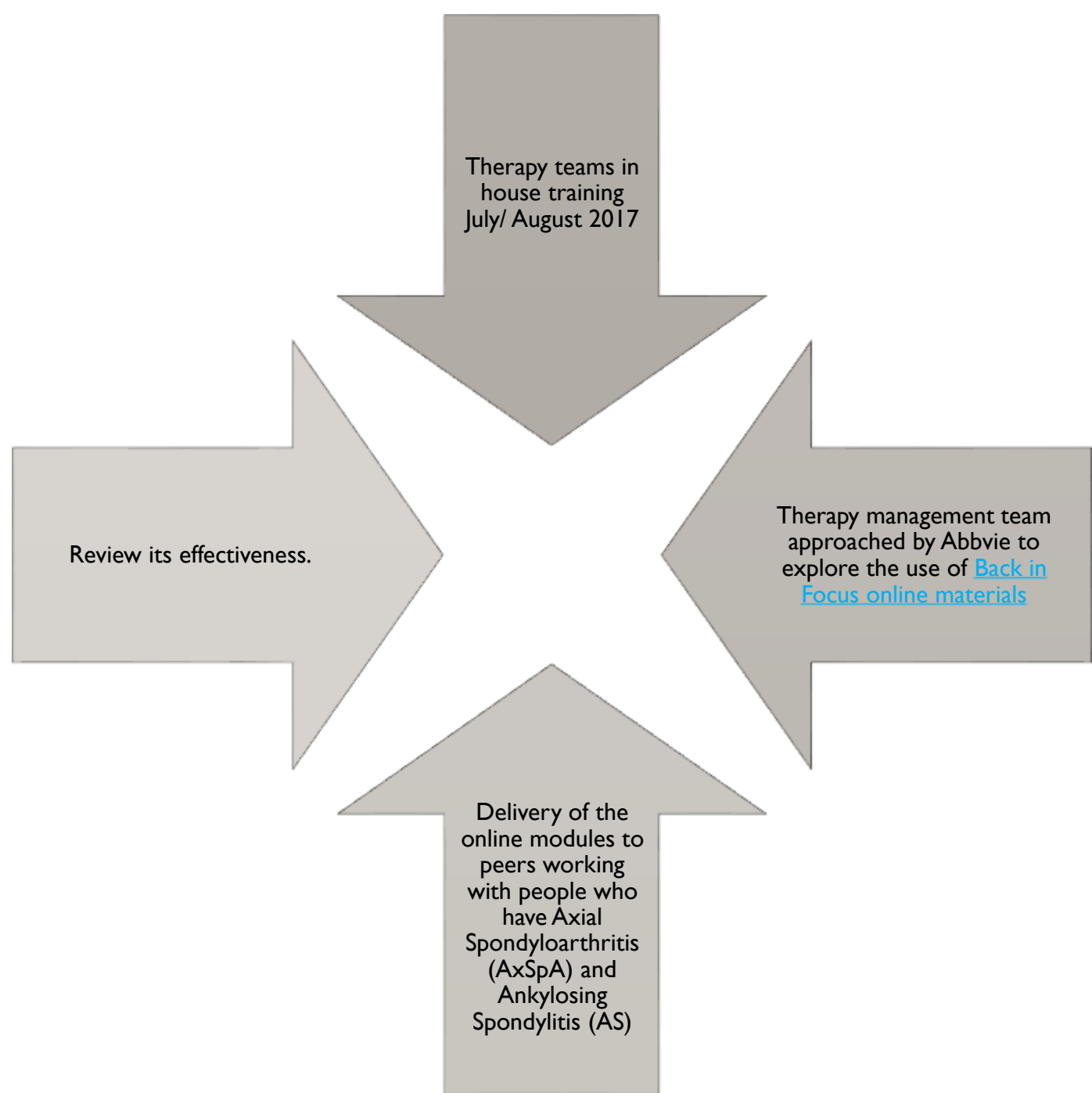
We discussed clinical practices in coordinating care and providing information and support to patients with SpA.

We agreed on local targets to for NG65 compliance:

Improve awareness and diagnostic skills.

Standardise assessment and management across clinical sites.

METHODS



DELIVERY

Training in September /October
2017

Review of SpA and NICE NG65

Back in focus online modules 1 and
2

Support offered to complete and
pass these modules

Feedback collected in regard to the
participants' completion and
understanding



RESULTS I

- **Before the training:** participants generally felt apprehensive and not competent in identifying, assessing and managing patients with SpA.



RESULTS 2

- **After the training:** participants felt well informed and more confident in recognition and appropriate referral of this group of patients.



INSERVICE
TRAINING

01

Overall participants felt the information and knowledge shared was excellent, interesting and educative.

02

The clinician presented well, demonstrated good background knowledge, thorough and fast paced

ON LINE MODULES

Participants felt the online modules were:

Evidenced based

Easy to navigate

Improved clinical reasoning and knowledge

Enjoyed working and learning through both the case studies and passing the 2 modules

No negative responses were received

CONCLUSION

Participants appeared to have improved their clinical reasoning by working through the case studies.

They felt online modules were beneficial to their learning in identifying, assessing and managing patients with SpA and integrated their knowledge into their daily clinical practice.

RECOMENDATIONS

Modules with case studies should be incorporated into informative training and such informative modules should be considered as mandatory training for professionals working with patients Who have Spondyloarthritis.

A follow up audit to discover numbers, sources and suitability of future referrals to Rheumatology should show if the above statements proves to be correct.