



Advanced Practice amongst TR/RTTs. Exploring the potential of the four pillars: preliminary results from a European perspective.

Oliveira C^{1,2}, Barbosa B, Couto J, Bravo I, Hughes C, McFadden S, Khine R³, McNair H³

¹Radiotherapy Department, IPOP, Portugal. ²Universidad de Vigo, España. ³European Federation of Radiographer Societies

INTRODUCTION

Advanced Practice

- Image review

On-treatment review

Pre-treatment

Drugs prescribing

Information & support
- Clinical education

Practice development

Clinical research

Follow-up & survivorship



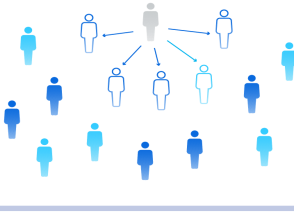



Advanced Practice-AP roles amongst Therapeutic Radiographers/Radiation Therapists-TR/RTTs plays a key part in enhancing capacity and capability within the oncology workforce, streamlining patient pathways in Radiotherapy-RT through Multidisciplinary Team-MDT working.¹

AIM


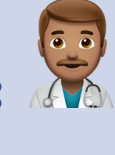

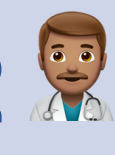

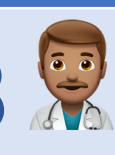
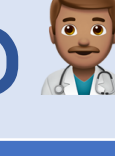
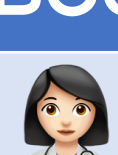
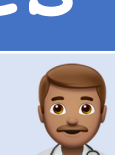
Investigate the profiles of advanced practitioners using the four AP pillars² in current practice and education.

METHODS

Qualitative study using the COREQ guideline.

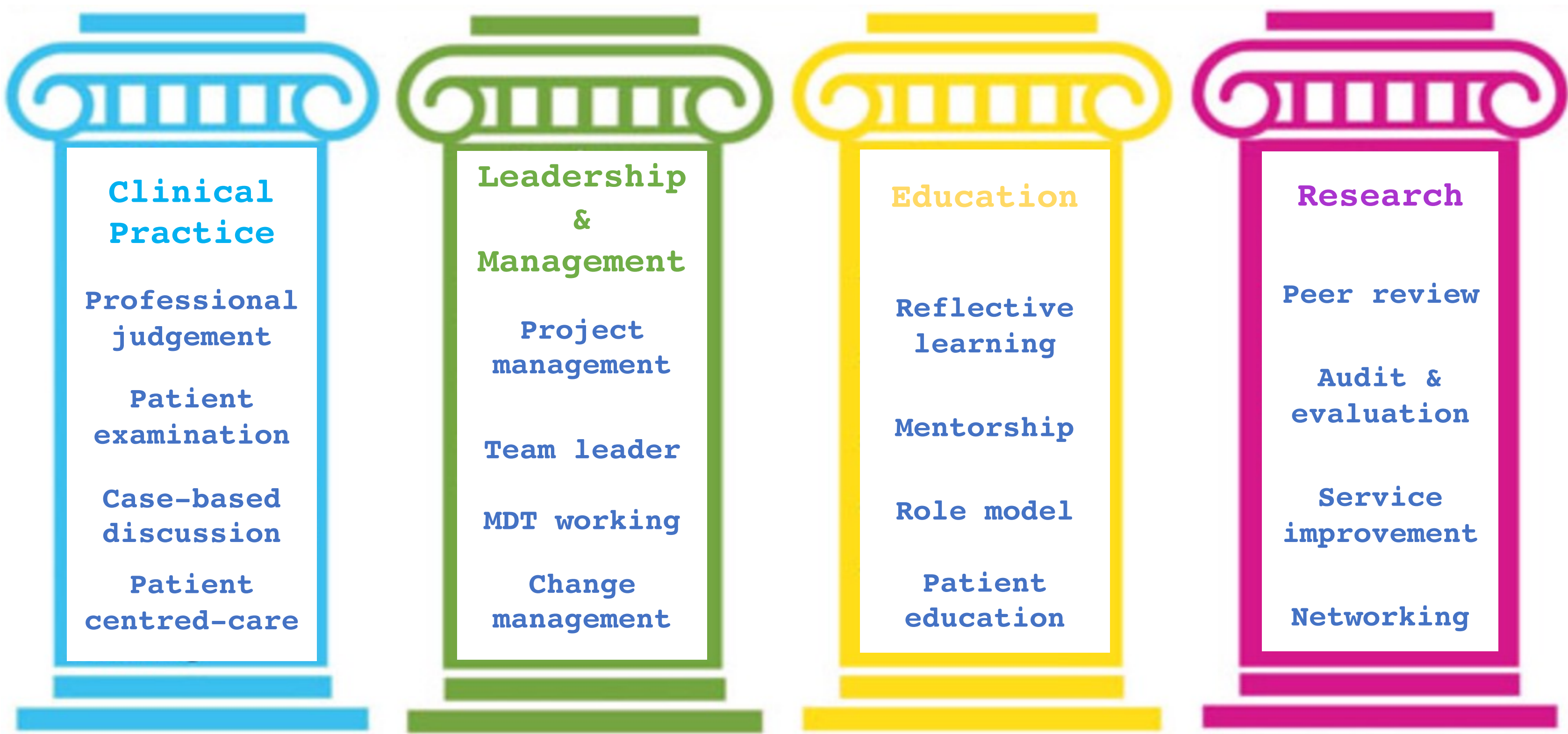
Data collection	 2 pilot interviews
• June–July 2022	 Online semi-structured interviews
• 1 interviewer	 Purposive and convenience sampling
Data analysis	 Full verbatim independently transcription
	 Member checking by interviewees
• 4 researchers for independent coding	 Inductive thematic analysis: NVivo

23 interviews (average length of 48 minutes) with RT key stakeholders from 14 European countries.

Advanced RTTs	Post-Graduation background	RTT practice	AP
7  4 	MSc 3 RT-specific 8 Others PhD 3 RT-specific (1 ongoing)	7–30 years	0–19 years
Managers			Management
2  2 	PgD 3 (Healthcare) Management MSc 1 RT-specific 3 Others PhD 1 RT-specific	12–30 years	5–13 years
Educators			Education
1  3 	MSc 1 RT-specific 4 Others PhD 1 Radiobiology	5–22 years	13–35 years
Students			AP
1 PhD 	MSc 1 Healthcare management	4 years	2 years
Professional Bodies			
2  1 	MSc 1 Biophysics MBA 2	4–19 years	NA

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Examples of capabilities by pillar of AP



Why advanced TR/RTTs do not work across all pillars?

Practice challenges	Incongruent job descriptions Departmental culture & professional boundaries AP roles variability (without standardisation)
Management issues	Recruitment & retention issues Lack of job plan Informal status of AP (without regulation)
Education gaps	Liaison between academy & practice Lack of MSc programmes in RT/AP Undergraduate non-RT specific programme
Neglected research	Lack of protected time Lack of MDT support Lack of research skills or confidence



"It is disappointing...I think the whole development of AP role was premised on all those four pillars...So, you might have a higher proportion of clinical practice in the advanced, but I would still expect those other pillars to be developed." Participant#4



"My role is broader than just an area of RT. It covers responsibility for patients through the entire RT pathway, but I think the key thing is that it covers the four pillars of AP." Participant#9

DISCUSSION

Advanced TR/RTTs should be supported by job descriptions and job plans with the inclusion of professional time allocation across all pillars. Regulation and standardisation of AP roles in RT is recommended and of prime importance. AP programmes in RT should underpin skills and capabilities for all pillars of AP.

REFERENCES

¹Oliveira C, Barbosa B, Couto JG, Bravo I, Khine R, McNair H. Advanced practice roles of therapeutic radiographers/radiation therapists: A systematic literature review. *Radiography*. 2022;28(3):605–619. doi:10.1016/j.radi.2022.04.009

²Health Education England. Multi-professional framework for advanced clinical practice in England. Published online 2017.

The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

