

Becoming an expert: A masterclass in developing clinical expertise

Abstract

This Masterclass explores how practitioners may develop clinical expertise. The terms expert and expertise are initially outlined along with the attributes of a practitioner with expertise. This is followed by an exploration of the literature in relation to three key ways to develop expertise: through experience with patients, formal postgraduate education and through direct observation of practice with a mentor. The theoretical basis of these activities is critically reviewed to highlight their underpinning educational value and pedagogy. It is proposed that critical reflection on practice enhanced by direct observation of practice with a mentor and formal postgraduate education each provide a potentially powerful tool for learning and the development of clinical expertise.

Keywords

Clinical expertise, expert practice, osteopathy, osteopathic medicine, professional development, clinical reasoning

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INTRODUCTION

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2 The aim of this Masterclass paper is to explore how osteopaths and health practitioners may develop their
3 clinical expertise and perhaps become known by others as an expert. My knowledge in this area has come from
4 over ten years experience as a course leader of a musculoskeletal physiotherapy postgraduate course that was
5 primarily focused on developing expertise of practitioners, from doctoral research study exploring learning
6 transitions of musculoskeletal physiotherapists undertaking the aforementioned course, and from supervision of
7 research students from a range of healthcare professions exploring this topic area. This is not a definitive and
8 comprehensive rendering of the subject, rather the perspective of the author as an educationalist and researcher
9 and long ago practitioner, who has been exploring this topic for a number of years. It is hoped that this paper will
10 help guide practitioners who wish to develop their clinical expertise and facilitate expertise in others.
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EXPERT AND CLINICAL EXPERTISE

22 Dictionary definitions of an expert refer to someone who is very knowledgeable about, or skillful in, a particular
23 area.¹ This raises the issue of who decides the level of knowledge and skill needed and what criteria would
24 determine whether someone is an expert. The complexity of osteopathic practice (and other health professionals)
25 may not lend itself to a list of performance indicators on which to determine whether someone is ‘an expert’.
26 Perhaps the notion of someone being an expert is, like beauty, in the eye of the beholder; it is a concept
27 constructed by the onlooker. The term ‘expert’ suggests a static and final position, however new knowledge is
28 constantly being created, so how often would someone considered an expert need to be re-validated? Because of
29 these difficulties in the term ‘expert’, the use of ‘expertise’ has generally been used in this paper, except where
30 accuracy to the literature demands otherwise. Expertise has been referred to as the proficiency and judgment
31 acquired through clinical experience and clinical practice.² Expertise relates to a person’s characteristics, skills
32 and knowledge with a sense of it being fluid and changing. Clinical expertise is described here as the ability of
33 the practitioner to effectively integrate their practice knowledge with the patient’s clinical presentation, values
34 and preferences to maximize the therapeutic encounter for the patient.
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ATTRIBUTES OF PRACTITIONERS WITH CLINICAL EXPERTISE

53 In considering broadly the characteristics of expertise, the United Kingdom Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)
54 for Higher Education learning outcomes for masters level learning (Table 1), provide a helpful overview.³
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[Table 1 about here]

Narrowing down to the particular of clinical expertise, the literature provides a broad array of characteristics of a practitioner summarised in Table 2. The broad range of attributes include patient-centred practice, critical evaluation and understanding of their practice knowledge, and an ability to learn in and from their practice. A recent grounded theory study suggests that some of these characteristics may be found in experienced osteopaths.^{4,5}

[Table 2 about here]

The last characteristic in Table 2, the capability to learn in, and from, practice (that is, to learn from experience) is considered essential to maintain expertise.^{8,10,35} To learn in, and from, practice requires practitioners to be capable of and disposed to critically examining, evaluating, creating, developing and transforming their practice knowledge and clinical practice.^{10,29,32,33,35} It is the questioning and challenging of practice knowledge that leads to its transformation.³⁶ The practitioner therefore needs to be critically reflective and reflexive.³² The requirement to learn in, and from, practice embraces lifelong learning and highlights the importance of critical evaluation skills.²⁷

DEVELOPMENT OF CLINICAL EXPERTISE

The developmental process by which practitioners enhance their clinical practice expertise is a contentious issue in the literature. Clinical practice experience with patients, formal postgraduate education and having mentors in practice were each considered instrumental in the professional development of clinical experts.⁸ These aspects provide a framework for this section and are discussed in turn.

Clinical experience

Expert level has been considered to develop from progressive accumulation of knowledge and skills through experience, however this is a controversial issue.^{6,37} Progressive accumulation of knowledge and skills assumes a conception of clinical practice as a mix of knowledge and skill divorced from clinical practice (technical rationality as described by Fish and Coles²⁹), which seems inadequate. Despite this, two research studies have

1 found that experienced practitioners (osteopaths and physiotherapists) viewed practice as the relatively simple
2 application of knowledge and skills.^{38,39} Furthermore, the assumed progression of skill through the stages⁶
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4 (novice, advanced beginner, competent, proficient and expert level) has not been identified amongst teachers,^{40,41}
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6 nurses,⁴² students,^{43,44} or engineers.³⁰ According to Benner^{6(p32), 37}, the expert nurse: *has an intuitive grasp of*
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8 *each situation and zeroes in on the accurate region of the problem without wasteful consideration of a large*
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10 *range of unfruitful, alternative diagnoses and solutions... the expert operates from a deep understanding of the*
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12 *total situation... Highly skilled analytic ability is necessary for those situations with which the nurse has had no*
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14 *previous experience.* Benner's notion of an expert nurse may also relate to an expert osteopath. However, while
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16 the description mirrors higher levels of motor skill performance⁴⁵ and skilled behaviours under conditions of
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18 rapid decision making,¹⁰ it does not reflect the advanced cognitive abilities used in clinical practice^{10,45} to find
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20 solutions to indeterminate problems that require continuous experimentation.⁴⁶ Furthermore in this model, expert
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22 practitioners are considered to be arational¹, where intuition is considered to guide action.^{6,37} This is also difficult
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24 to accept since patient-centred care requires deliberative action.^{10,47}
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28 Within medicine, expert diagnostic reasoning has been theorised to develop through three stages: novice
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30 (knowledge that explains causal pathophysiological processes, for example causes of posterior leg pain),
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32 intermediate (encapsulation of biomedical knowledge into diagnostic labels, for example nerve root
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34 compression) and expert (illness script formation that emphasizes enabling conditions of a disease, for example
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36 lack of exercise).^{16,17,18} Clinical experience is considered vital to the development through each of these
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38 stages.^{16,17,18}
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42 The proposal that 10 years (or 10,000 hours) of deliberate practice develops expertise^{47,48} has been disputed.
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44 Deliberate practice accounted for one-third of the reliable variance in performance in chess and music with the
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46 proposal that age, intelligence and genetics may also be influential.⁴⁹ Furthermore, a meta-analysis⁵⁰ of 88
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48 studies concluded that while the amount of deliberate practice was important in determining performance, it was
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50 not as influential as first thought. Deliberate practice accounted for 26% of the variance in performance in games,
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52 21% for music, 18% for sports, 4% for education and less than 1% for professions. More specifically,
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54 musculoskeletal physiotherapy practitioners with better patient outcomes for people with low back pain, were
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60 ¹ Arational refers to being 'without conscious analytical decomposition and recombination'.^{37 p36}
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1 not distinguished by years of experience.⁵¹ Recent research in osteopathy also suggested that there is no
2 qualitative relationship between practitioner's level of clinical experience (years in clinical practice) and
3 attributes of clinical expertise.^{4,5}
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8 The influence of experience on learning has been explored by Dewey⁵² who posited that every experience
9 modifies the person and the quality of future experiences. So, for example, each experience an osteopath has of
10 performing a spinal manipulation or carrying out a patient case history, will influence the practitioner and their
11 subsequent experiences of manipulation and history taking. This notion is beginning to be borne out by studies
12 exploring experience driven neuroplasticity highlighted in this journal by Esteves and Spence.⁵³ This meaning
13 making process may create or modify their practice knowledge (or personal theories), which may then modify
14 them as practitioners, and influence their future clinical experience.^{29,54} The degree of change to their practice
15 knowledge would thus depend on the degree to which they consciously reflected and theorised on the experience.
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17 The experience itself would, in turn, be influenced by the practitioner's hidden, taken for granted assumptions
18 and expectations^{55,56,57} and this would be influenced by their clinical perspective or frame of reference;^{55,56} we
19 tend to experience what we expect to experience. The potential for learning may therefore be limited as the
20 practitioner may be trapped within their existing understanding;^{52,58} theories-in-use may be 'self-sealing'^{2, 59}
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22 More radical transformation of practice knowledge may require help from other practitioners. They may reveal
23 blind spots in practice knowledge⁶⁰ and alternative views and paradigms that facilitate a more radical change.^{55,56}
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25 This may lead to more complex and comprehensive understanding of practice knowledge with integration of
26 knowing, acting and being, embodied and embedded in intersubjective practice.^{58,61}
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42 *reflection on experience*

43 The importance of reflection to experiential learning demands exploration. From the literature, a conceptual
44 model of the relationship between experience and reflection is shown in Figure 1. The circular nature of
45 experience suggests that experience that confirms expectations may not trigger as much reflection as a
46 contradictory experience. A confirmatory clinical experience, accepted as such by the practitioner, may confirm
47 and strengthen existing practice knowledge. A confirmatory clinical experience, rejected as such by the
48 practitioner however, may trigger reflection and lead to modification of practice knowledge. The relationship
49 between experience and reflection is illustrated by the following example. When presented with a person
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59 ² Self sealing refers to the situation where our theories limit what we do and therefore limit our opportunities to
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1 complaining of chronic low back pain, the practitioner may expect the person's pain and disability to respond to
2 hands-on manual therapy directed to the postural/structural and biomechanical clinical findings. If the person
3 responds as expected this may confirm and reinforce the practitioner's beliefs and practice knowledge.
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5 Alternatively, the practitioner may critically reflect on the experience and consider whether alternative treatment
6 may have had a better and quicker response, this critical exploration may then lead to new insights and learning.
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11 [Figure 1 about here]
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16 In the same way, a contradictory clinical experience may be embraced, not noticed, ignored or rejected by a
17 practitioner.^{63,64,65} A contradictory clinical experience that is ignored or rejected, may result in little change to
18 practice knowledge; this may occur because of the risk of error, uncertainty or gap in practice knowledge,
19 personal discomfort,^{59,66} or reluctance to make the intellectual effort required to reflect.¹⁰ Where a practitioner
20 embraces a contradictory clinical experience, this may result in critical reflection towards their practice
21 knowledge with subsequent modification. Using the same example as above, if the patient with low back pain
22 does not respond as expected and fails to improve. The practitioner may chose to ignore this and continue to treat
23 in the chosen way or make some minor modification to the treatment, with little learning. Alternatively, the
24 practitioner may embrace this contradictory experience and critically reflect on their decision making process
25 that may highlight missed cues, leading to an enhancement in their practice knowledge. In medical diagnostic
26 reasoning, for example, a mismatch between patient information and the illness scripts and memory of previous
27 patients held by expert practitioners is thought to trigger an active engagement in clinical reasoning.^{17,18}
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41 Thus confirmatory and contradictory clinical experience that is arrested and examined,^{67,68} develops, tests and
42 generates practice knowledge.³² The capability to learn from experience depends not on years of
43 experience,^{67,68,69} but rather on:

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- the degree to which a practitioner reflects on clinical experience
 - how questioning and critical a practitioner is of their clinical experience
 - how open a practitioner is to changing their practice knowledge; and
 - the degree to which a practitioner is exposed to alternative views and perspectives.

routinization with experience

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2 Experience not only creates and modifies practice knowledge, it also affects clinical behaviour and action. With
3 repetition, actions can become more automatic, fluid and skillful.^{10,62} For example, palpation requires motor
4 skills that can become automatic and highly skilled with practice.⁴⁷ Automatic actions enhance time efficiency as
5 well as the cognitive attention required to perform the action. For example, a habitual way to palpate the spine
6 enables the practitioner to concentrate on feeling the paraspinal soft tissues and joint mobility.⁵³ Automatic
7 actions thus facilitate the application of practice knowledge (through cognition, metacognition and reflection)
8 enabling conscious, deliberate patient-centred practice that enables the practitioner to learn from experience; this
9 is highlighted in Table 3. Patient-centred practice is used here to denote the conscious, deliberate, creative,
10 individualised and collaborative clinical care of patients.^{8,9,10,11,12} Practitioners developing in this way may have a
11 conception of clinical practice as uncertain, unpredictable and problematic and a disposition to critically reflect
12 and learn from their clinical practice, thus enhancing their practice knowledge with experience.
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27 If, however, clinical actions are not accompanied by conscious use of practice knowledge (through cognition,
28 metacognition and reflection), then there is a loss of conscious regulation and critical control, so that practice
29 may become routinized;^{10,70} the process is summarised in Table 3. There may be limited capability to learn from
30 such practitioner-centred clinical practice (the routine use of examination procedures, treatment techniques and
31 management strategies for patients regardless of their presentation). Practitioners developing in this way, may
32 have a conception of clinical practice as certain, predictable and unproblematic and may not be disposed to
33 critically reflect and learn from their clinical practice, thus limiting their practice knowledge.
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nature of clinical practice

41 The nature of clinical practice may limit the opportunity to learn from experience.^{59,70} The practitioner:
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- 44 • has to make clinical decisions for complex and uncertain problems; this may limit accurate and specific
45 feedback on clinical decisions.¹⁰
 - 46 • needs to be confident, committed and decisive with patients, but at the same time needs to be uncertain and
47 critical towards their clinical practice and practice knowledge.^{10,59,70} Maintenance of this balance may be
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- may not value their own knowledge from clinical experience.⁷¹ The emphasis on evidence based practice and the use of propositional knowledge may devalue a practitioner’s own knowledge gleaned from clinical experience.

influence of work setting

Work settings that value efficiency and patient through-put rather than effectiveness and quality of clinical practice^{10,63} may impede learning from experience in a number of ways identified in Table 4.

[Table 4 about here]

Formal education

In the UK, university masters courses in musculoskeletal physiotherapy have a central aim to develop the clinical expertise of practitioners. These courses are approved by the Musculoskeletal Association of Chartered Physiotherapists (MACP) and must comply with the Educational Standards Document of the International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Physical Therapists (IFOMPT).⁷⁴ These courses have a minimum of 200 hours of theory, 150 hours of practical skill development and 150 hours of mentored clinical practice. Research has demonstrated that practitioners completing these courses gained enhanced confidence, clinical reasoning, criticality, ability to engage with evidence based practice, ability to learn and career development and were more patient-centred.^{73,75,76} Some of these elements were found within a theoretical model of the learning transition (change in attitude, knowledge and behavior) of musculoskeletal physiotherapists completing a MACP approved MSc,^{38,77} this is shown in Figure 2. This research study showed that at the start of the course, participants typically held uncritical practice knowledge and tended towards routine, practitioner-centred clinical practice. The learning transition varied between participants and depended on a host of moderating factors. At the end of the course, participants enhanced their practice in terms of three inter-related aspects: they gained a critical understanding of practice knowledge that facilitated more patient-centred practice, which led to a capability to learn in and from practice (Figure 3). This development towards clinical expertise was primarily facilitated by critical evaluation of practice knowledge, and was particularly powerful when facilitated by a mentor in clinical practice; this involved the direct observation of practice with patients with subsequent questioning, discussion and critical feedback. This highly challenging experience necessitated high levels of support from the mentor. From the perspective of osteopathy, a recent grounded theory study resonates with the

1 above theory. Osteopaths with formal postgraduate education demonstrated a range of attributes associated with
2 clinical expertise, such as adopting a more critical and reflective stance towards practice knowledge, norms and
3 traditions; adopting a person-centred approach towards patient management; and were comfortable with the
4 ambiguity and uncertain terrain of professional clinical practice.^{4,5} These rewards may offset the financial costs
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6 for osteopaths working in private practice.
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11 [Figure 2 and Figure 3 about here]
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14 Mentors in practice

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16 The notion of a mentor facilitating the development of a practitioner's clinical expertise is consistent with the
17 literature related to situated learning; in this context, learning in and from practice.^{9,10,29,32,58,69,88} Someone with
18 expertise guiding a less experienced practitioner is well rehearsed in the literature^{9,89,90} and the role of the mentor
19 is summarised in Table 5. It is argued here, that mentorship that involves direct observation with patients may be
20 a powerful method of enhancing clinical expertise. The value of direct observation of practice, highlighted in
21 Table 6, may be due to every aspect of practice being observed, which is then followed by immediate and
22 specific feedback of performance and discussion. Even practitioners of similar levels of knowledge may benefit
23 from observing each other in clinical practice.
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40 Critical dialogue of practice knowledge creates opportunities for individuals to experience contradiction that
41 may trigger learning.^{58,59,63,64,95,99,100} Unlike confirming experience which may lead to minimal learning,
42 contradictory experiences can lead to a powerful learning transition with significant cognitive and emotional
43 dissonance.⁹⁹ Critical dialogue of practice knowledge with the mentor exposes practitioners to alternative views
44 and perspectives that can free them from their own circular experience and understanding.^{52,58,59} The less
45 experienced are guided to a higher level of practice knowledge and understanding through cognitive scaffolding
46 and structuring.¹⁰¹ This process may lead to a transformation of practice knowledge that is more discriminating,
47 integrated, differentiated, open, dependable and justified.^{55,92} This highlights the need for the mentor to challenge,
48 question and offer new knowledge that contradicts the mentees current knowledge. The mentee, in turn, needs to
49 be prepared to face contradictory knowledge and consider alternative points of view.
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2 Opportunity for the practitioner to observe the practice of those with higher levels of expertise may also be of
3 benefit; observational learning has been highlighted as a powerful process^{9,10,82} The observer may gain
4 confidence seeing similar actions to their own as well as seeing alternative ways of working. The observed may
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6 act as a role model demonstrating a higher level of practice that identifies areas for further development in the
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8 observing practitioner.
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12 Direct observation of practice may initially be resisted by practitioners as they may feel vulnerable to negative
13 judgment of their practice and a loss of respect from their colleagues. While lone working in a clinic room with
14 patients may protect the practitioner from any criticism, it prevents them from being encouraged and supported
15 and misses the opportunity to share and learn from colleagues; and thus make it difficult to develop a high level
16 of clinical expertise. Mentorship with direct observation of practice will, however, be challenging. For
17 practitioners in sole practice settings, geographical distance may limit access. To successfully implement
18 mentorship, it would be imperative to use a mentee-centred approach and that a collaborative, respectful
19 relationship is developed between mentee and mentor. If this can be achieved, mentorship would appear to offer
20 a potentially powerful and economical method of enhancing the clinical expertise of practitioners. While the
21 American Osteopathic Association has a well established mentor exchange programme
22 (<http://cf.osteopathic.org/iLearn/home.cfm>), the recent initiative to develop and pilot a supportive mentoring
23 programme for UK osteopathy graduates¹⁰² may prove fruitful.
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41 **CONCLUSION**

42 Just as ‘the more you know, the more you know you don’t know’ is a truism, so the notion of an expert is ‘a
43 chasing after the wind’.¹⁰³ The best that can be hoped for is a developing expertise that will continue as a lifelong
44 process. Once accepted that learning is a necessary and continuous process for practitioners, the next question of
45 importance is how best to learn and develop. The literature suggests that passively gaining years of experience
46 will not automatically lead to the development of expertise and expert practice. A practitioner has to actively and
47 critically engage with their practice, seeking out and embracing contradictory experiences and challenging
48 confirmatory experiences in order to use these as vehicles to learn and enhance their practice knowledge. Critical
49 reflection on practice is fundamental to this. In addition, direct observation of practice and mentorship provide
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practitioners with a potentially powerful process in which to share knowledge and gain alternative and broader
ways of working that can lead to high levels of clinical expertise.

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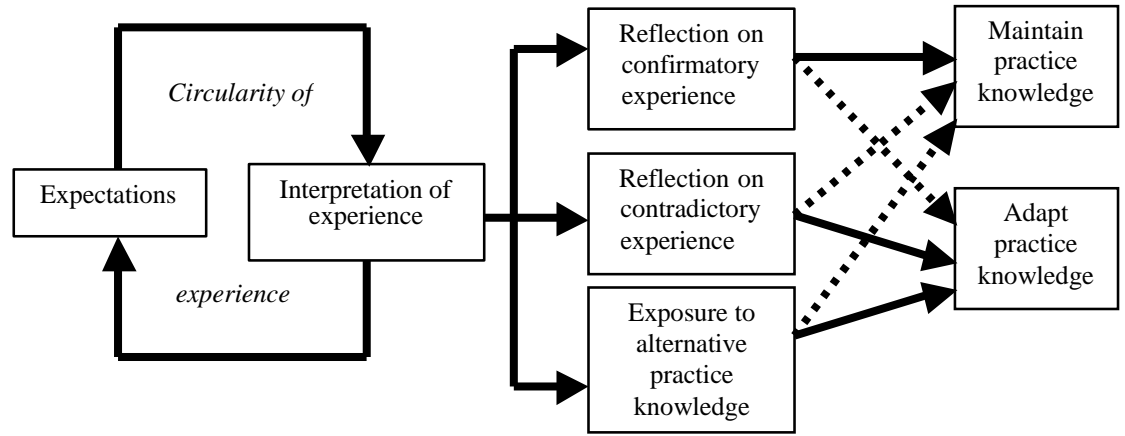


Figure 1

Circular nature of experience and reflection on learning. (Adapted from Dewey⁵², Eraut⁵⁴, Fish and Coles²⁹, Jarvis⁶²).

.....▶ = rejection —▶ = acceptance

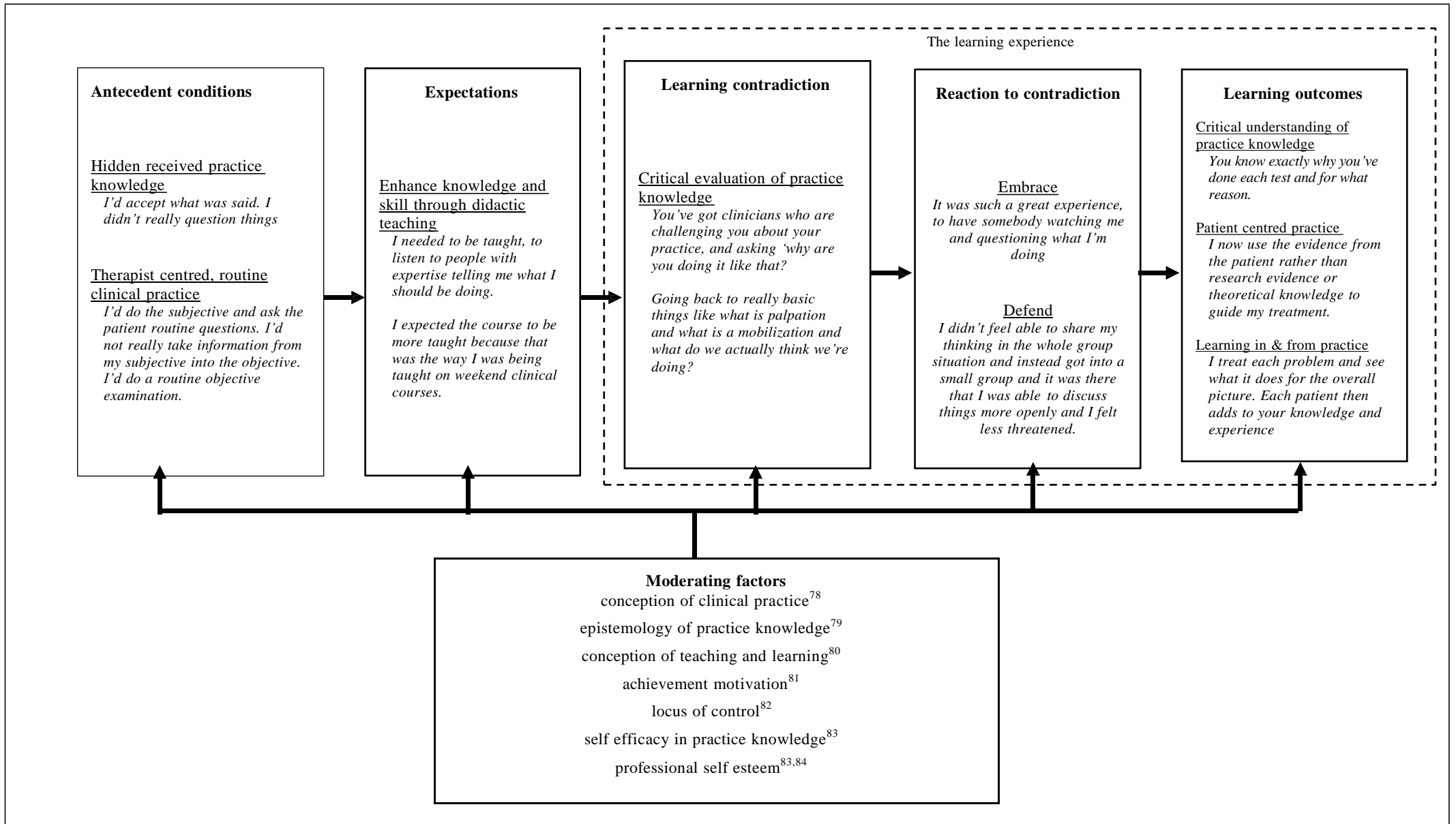


Figure 2 Explanatory theory of the learning transition experienced by practitioners completing a Master of Science degree in musculoskeletal physiotherapy. Reproduced by kind permission of Elsevier from Petty, Scholes & Ellis⁷⁷

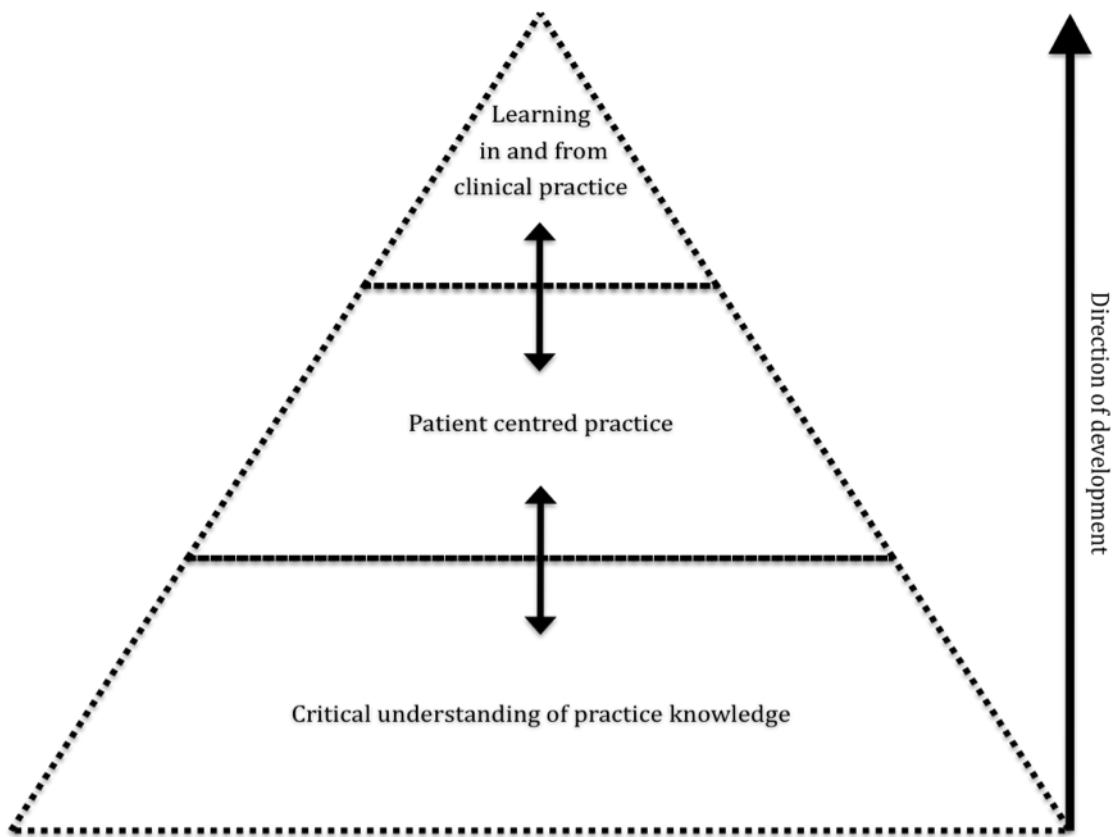


Figure 3

The learning outcome of the Master of Science degree in musculoskeletal physiotherapy. The direction of development towards clinical expertise involved three developmental aspects: critical understanding of practice knowledge led to patient centred practice, which in turn led to a capability to learn in, and from, clinical practice. The smaller arrowheads indicate that learning in and from practice enhanced patient centred practice, which in turn enhanced critical understanding of practice knowledge. Reproduced by kind permission of Elsevier from Petty, Scholes & Ellis.⁷⁷

Typically holders will be able to:

- deal with complex issues systematically and creatively, make sound judgments in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level
- continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level

And holders will have:

- the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
- the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
- decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations
- the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development

Table 1 Documented learning outcomes of Masters level 7 learning.³

Patient-centred practice. ^{4,5,6,7,8,9}
Conscious, deliberate and creative practice. ^{10,11,12}
Instant or rapid interpretation through pattern recognition. ^{6,13,14,15}
Detect inconsistencies or links between bits of clinical data and in relation to what they know from experience. ^{7,13,14}
Activation and verification of illness scripts ^{16,17, 18}
Holistic view of problematic clinical situations. ^{19,20}
More options in clinical decision making, including the option not to treat ²¹
Education and coaching considered equally important to their skills. ^{4,5,22}
Spend time trying to understand the clinical problem (c.f. novices spend time trying out different solutions). ²³
Appropriate and rapid navigation between clinical action (chains of practice) and understanding (integrated net of understanding). This is suggested to explain the intuitive dimension of expertise. ^{13, 24,25}
Critical evaluation of practice knowledge. ^{9,10, 11,15}
Understanding of clinical practice with integration of knowledge. ^{8,13,15,26,27,28,29,30,31} Similar to connoisseurship - awareness and understanding of what has been experienced. ²⁸
Reflective, reflexive and self evaluative. ^{8,9,11,14,15,32}
Dynamic, negotiated, and situated. ^{4,5,13,33}
Ability to explain and justify clinical decisions. ³²
Learning in and from practice. ^{4,5,8,10,13,21,27,29,34,35}

Table 2 Attributes of a practitioner with clinical expertise

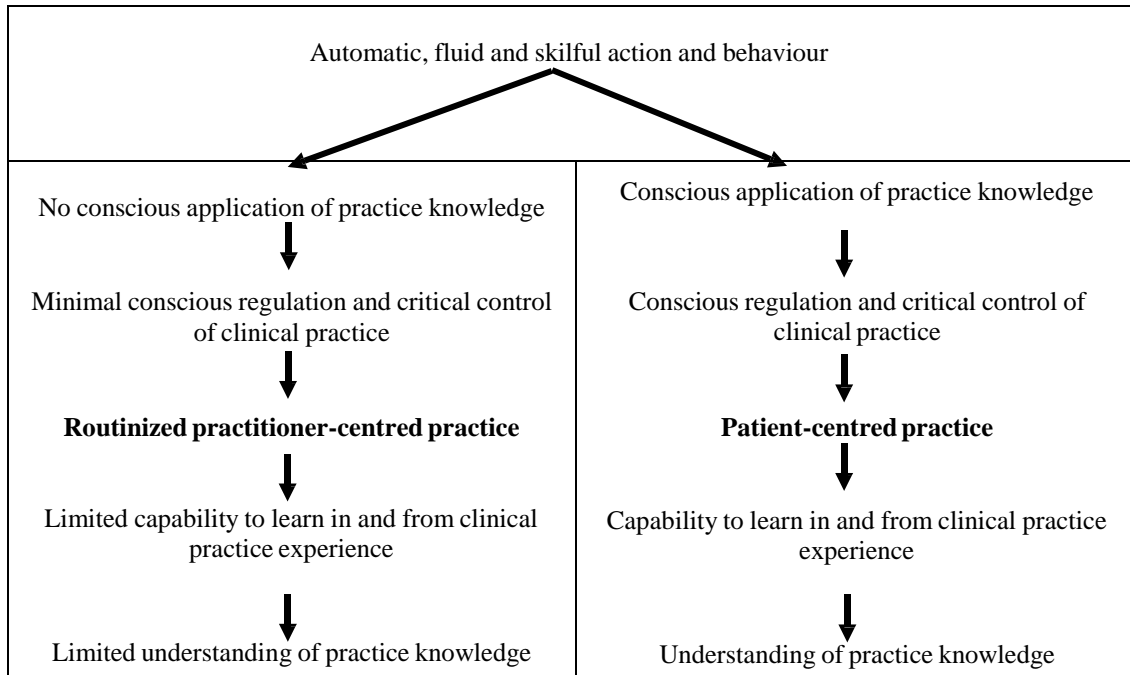


Table 3 The nature of practitioner-centred and patient-centred clinical practice. (Adapted from Eraut^{10,70} and Jarvis⁶²)

Practice setting may inhibit practitioners learning by:

- promoting the use of routines and habits in practice
- limiting time for cognitive and metacognitive processing
- promoting superficial reflection on actions and solutions through single loop learning rather than deep reflection that might question the premises on which action was taken through double loop learning.⁵⁹
- engendering the use of pattern recognition* and a trial and error approach at the expense of reflective deliberation and an abductive reasoning** approach to patient management.^{32,72}
- limiting time and opportunity to critically reflect on clinical experience
- inhibiting any change to practice as the process of change often requires time
- promoting lone working with patients and prevent practitioners working together and learning from each other.^{10,73}
- promoting therapist centred practice

Table 4 Ways in which the practice setting can inhibit learning from experience.

* It is not suggested here that the use of pattern recognition is a sign of therapist centred practice; rather that time constraints in an efficiency driven workplace may hinder an abductive approach where this may be needed.

** Abductive reasoning involves the generation of new ideas and hypotheses to help explain phenomena in the data, in this context, the patient's presentation.⁷²

The mentor provides:

- high level challenge toward uncritically assimilated taken-for-granted assumptions, beliefs, values, expectations, perceptions, judgments, actions and perspectives.⁹
- questions the learner's practice knowledge.³³ Questioning can trigger reflection and reveal understanding, as well as promote collaborative construction of knowledge.⁹¹
- critical dialogue to promote collaborative interpretations and critique, and evaluation to promote deliberation and reflection.⁹
- practice knowledge broken down into its constituent parts. Each part is then made more complex and more distinguishable by being refined, differentiated and elaborated through critical evaluation.⁸⁷
- guidance for cognitive organisation to remain at the level of principles for flexible and creative clinical practice and to facilitate integrative development of understanding with further experience.⁸⁷
- opportunity for knowledge to become more discriminating, integrated, differentiated, open,⁵⁵ dependable and justified.⁹²
- high levels of support⁹ to counterbalance the learning transition that may involve less fluid and more difficult practice, disorientation, vulnerability, and even alienation with strong feelings of anxiety, stress, and irritability.^{10,93,95}

Table 5 The role of the mentor

Nature of practice knowledge	Direct observation of clinical practice
Embedded within action and rarely discussed, debated or critically appreciated. ²⁹	Can trigger articulation and critical evaluation of knowledge embedded within action. ⁵⁹
Hidden like an iceberg from practitioners so they are unaware of what informs their clinical actions. ^{29,59,96}	Awareness raised through comprehensive, direct and specific feedback of performance by another. ^{10,22,89,97}
Tacit or difficult to articulate ^{10,96,98} ; for example palpation findings	Enables aspects that cannot be articulated to be shared in other ways, for example comparing palpation findings.
Outside the control of the practitioner ¹⁰ and as such cannot be changed. ⁵⁹	Comes under the control of the practitioner ¹⁰ and so can be changed. ⁵⁹

Table 6 Value of direct observation of clinical practice