

**SUPPLEMENTARY FILE 1: SURVEY OF UK PHYSIOTHERAPISTS' MANAGEMENT OF ADULT ANKLE FRACTURE FIXATION PATIENTS**

	<b>Respondents (N = 59)</b>
<b>Respondent characteristics</b>	
NHS Agenda for Change pay band	
Band 5	3 (5)
Band 6	16 (27)
Band 7	28 (48)
Band 8	6 (10)
Other	6 (10)
Place of work	
NHS primary care	26 (44)
NHS secondary care	27 (46)
Private	5 (9)
Other	1 (2)
Country of work	
England	54 (92)
Northern Ireland	0 (0)
Scotland	2 (3)
Wales	3 (5)
<b>Key survey findings</b>	
What proportion of these patients do you think need outpatient physiotherapy? (Mean))	81 (range 10 to 100)
Most common weight bearing instruction after surgery?	
Non-weight bearing	37 (63)
Partial weight bearing	11 (19)
Full weight bearing	3 (5)
Other	8 (14)
Do weight bearing instructions after surgery differ between younger and older adult patients? (yes)	19 (32)
Does the mode (e.g., face-to-face, telephone etc.) of providing rehabilitation differ between younger and older adult patients? (yes)	20 (34)
Does the no. of outpatient physiotherapy appointments you provide differ between younger and older adult patients? (yes)	30 (51)
Does the duration over which physiotherapy treatment is provided differ between young and older adult patients? (yes)	21 (36)
Most important problem at 6 weeks after ankle fracture fixation surgery? <sup>2a</sup> (52 responses)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Joint motion limitation</li> <li>2. Pain</li> <li>3. Fear and anxiety</li> <li>4. Ankle muscle weakness</li> <li>5. Gait abnormalities</li> <li>6. Balance deficit</li> <li>7. Dependence on walking aids</li> <li>8. Global lower limb weakness</li> </ol>

Top 3 physiotherapy interventions at 6 weeks after ankle fixation surgery? <sup>a</sup>

9. Risk of falls
1. Range of movement stretches
2. Gait re-education
3. Balance

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Data are n (%) unless otherwise stated; NHS: National Health Service

<sup>a</sup>Answers ranked in order of importance with 1 being most important