

DECLARATION

I declare that this research is my own unaided work, except where otherwise stated. It is being submitted for the Master of Technology in Chiropractic at the University of Johannesburg, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree of examination at any other University.

Monica Marques Fiandeiro

Date



UNIVERSITY
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DEDICATION

To my God, who hears and answers, who listens and guides, and through whom all things are possible. This completed research is my evidence of that.

To my parents, Bernard and Maria, who have been pillars of strength and who have very graciously allowed me to take over their dining room table with piles of research.

To my brother Mark who coloured my life with his mountain biking accidents just when I became too involved with this research to see the wood from the trees. Thank you!

To my cousin Vincent who took time to spend with me and helped figure out how to produce charts and graphs to illustrate my work. I know the bolognaise we feed you wasn't thanks enough.

To my cousin and best friend Analiza who very patiently helped me hand out surveys in searing heat and torrential rain, and who very subtly helped me realize that I have no sense of direction even with a map book!

To my friend Eva who has supported me throughout this process and is well aware of the ups of downs involved.

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ABSTRACT

“It is through cooperation, rather than conflict, that your greatest successes will be derived” (www.inspiring-quotes-and-stories.com, 26 March 2007). This proclamation can be aptly applied to the notion that an integrated healthcare team that is open to an interdisciplinary approach to a patient’s healthcare needs, will have the patient’s best interests at heart and most likely a holistic solution as opposed to treating the patient with individual approaches.

The aim of this study was to establish the inter-referral patterns between Chiropractors and Physiotherapists in the Western and Northern regions of Johannesburg, as there had been no research conducted in this regard. In this way an assessment of interdisciplinary communication and referral could be established between the two professions and steps could then be initiated to improve this if found necessary.

A questionnaire was sent to Chiropractors and Physiotherapists in this region. These questionnaires were tailored to the professional discipline of the subject. It asked a range of questions relating to their background, knowledge of the other profession being surveyed and their opinion on the credibility of the other profession’s ability to treat certain conditions. The results were then tabulated and statistically calculated and verified to establish the end results.

The results of this study found that Chiropractors were more open to referrals to Physiotherapists regarding only certain conditions, whilst Physiotherapists were less inclined to refer to Chiropractors in general.

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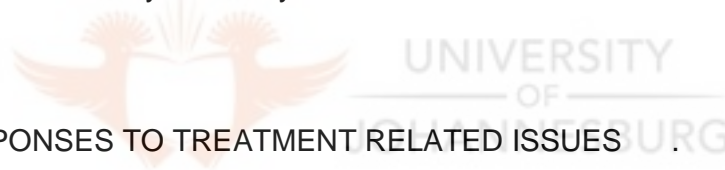
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