

VYT 2025 Entry #3

Beyond the Familiar: Exploring Online Clinical Competency Assessment in Physiotherapy

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Are we holding onto the familiar at the expense of what is possible?

In physiotherapy, in-person clinical competency assessments determine who is ready to enter the profession. However, the world is changing. Global disruptions, workforce shortages and digital innovation demand change.

It is time to ask: Can physiotherapy clinical competency be assessed online?

My research explores this across three studies. First, we tested a new online assessment with physio students. It was practical and easy to implement, but assessors were hesitant about what might be lost online.

Next, we tested it with internationally trained physios. Their online and in-person results suggest that the online assessment is a viable option.

Now, we're digging deeper to understand assessors' perspectives and hesitations around online assessments.

Together, these studies pave the way for online assessments that are rigorous, accepted and adaptable to the future of physiotherapy.

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