

WAYS OF FORMATION OF DOMESTIC SYSTEM PREPARING MASTERS ON PHYSICAL THERAPY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE REHAB PROJECT

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Formulation of the problem

A systematic analysis of the information materials of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine convincingly shows that the medical and demographic, incidence rates characterizing the state of public health have negative trends.

One of the prerequisites for their occurrence is the lack of specialists in rehabilitation therapy. According to the 2013 WCPT, the number of physical therapists in Ukraine was less than 0.05 per 10,000 population. While in other countries, such as Liechtenstein, Belgium and Norway, their number was 25 per 10,000 or more [1].

Against the backdrop of the difficult economic, social and security situation in Ukraine, attempts to implement health care reform continue. First of all, it is a set of national decisions taken, commitments made to preserve and strengthen physical and psychological health and social well-being. Today, one of the main approved documents that determines the ways of reforming the medical field is the Recommendations of Parliamentary Hearings (Decree No. 1338-VIII dated April 21, 2016), where health care reform is identified as one of the priority directions of state policy, the purpose of which is to radically and comprehensive reform this area, aimed at creating a patient-centered healthcare system capable of providing health care to all citizens of Ukraine at the level of developed European countries [2]. This document contains a number of recommendations to the Verkhovna Rada and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. In particular, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, together with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, was tasked to develop a strategy for reforming the medical education and science system, providing for bringing into line with European practice educational and professional training programs for doctors, nurses, managers and physical therapists.

Objective

To identify priority approaches and directions of implementation of the educational program in professional direction on specialty 227 “Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy” (specialization 227.1 “Physical Therapy”).

Research methods and organization

To solve this goal, we used the following research methods: analysis and generalization of the experience of training specialists in physical therapy in the EU

countries and the new educational and professional program and curriculum for the second (master's) level of higher education in specialty 227.1 “Physical Therapy” of the NUUPES Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Department, monitoring of Internet information resources, systematic approach.

Research results discussion

Physical therapy is the key to improving health, functionality and adaptation to the environment, improving the physical activity of people of all ages and functional abilities. The profession “Physical Therapy” in Ukraine exists since 2016, when it was officially recognized, its development has become one of the national priorities, which is confirmed by the activity of various branches of government in Ukraine, namely:

- by Order on the beginning of programs in Physical Therapy (No. 678/2015 dated December 4, 2015) [3];
- by Order on the development of a new standard in the field of health care on specialty “Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy” (No.53 dated February 1, 2017) [4];
- by orders on introduction in the professions classifier under the code 2229.2 of professional title “Physiotherapist” (No. 1328 <http://bit.ly/2EaAa5c> dated August 10, 2016) [5] and “Assistant Physiotherapist” (<http://bit.ly/2BeyMjA> dated October 26, 2017) [6], which corresponds to the EU structure of the in the healthcare sector, as all EU countries recognize the profession of Physical Therapy (PT) and protect the title of PT by law.

Since 2017, Ukraine began to provide Physical Therapy education programs. However, currently, training programs for physiotherapists (PT) in Ukraine don't correspond to requirements of the European Region of the World Confederation of Physical Therapy (ER-WCPT). An analysis of the content of some programs showed that they mainly relate to issues of general physical rehabilitation and partially include issues related to professional training on Physical Therapy.

The structure of higher medical education in Ukraine is based on the educational systems of the leading countries of the world in accordance with the recommendations of the EU, UNESCO and UNO, and is regulated by the law "On Higher Education". According to modern requirements, medical education is a continuity and sequence of stages [2]. The multi-level system of educational institutions provides high-quality education with consistent acquisition of such qualifications as bachelor's and master's degrees. The World Confederation of Physical Therapy (WCPT) recommends that entry-level professional education programs for physiotherapists be based on university studies of at least four years, independently validated and accredited under the standard that provide to graduates with full official and professional recognition [7]. There are innovations and differences in program implementation and entry-level qualifications, including first university degrees, Master's and doctoral qualifications.



Launch of the new international educational project “Innovative Rehabilitation Education - Introduction of new master degree programs in Ukraine” (REHAB) provides an opportunity to: 1) increase the professional capacity of university teachers; 2) creation of new resources for teaching / learning / assessment; 3) creation of a special educational infrastructure necessary for the implementation of a new national professional program on Physical Therapy.

REHAB project partners in Ukraine are the Universities of Ukraine on Physical Education and Sport in Kyiv (NUUPES), Lviv State University of Physical Culture (LSUPC) in Lviv, Ternopil State Medical University (TSMU) in Ternopil, Sumy State University (SSU) in Sumy, as well as Testing Center of professional competence of specialists with higher Education of training areas “Medicine” and “Pharmacy” at the Ministry of Health of Ukraine. Together, they have created a national profile of competence for physiotherapists on Bachelor's and Master's educational programs.

Each REHAB partner has specific industry knowledge related to PT training. The selected project partners have different experiences and complement each other to achieve the project objectives.

NUUPES began students' training on physical rehabilitation in the 90s of the XX century. At the Department of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy (formerly called “Physical Rehabilitation”) accumulated a great deal of experience in training and determined a national profile of competences. The team of professionals working at the department has established good cooperation with clinics and rehabilitation centers in Kiev. The head of the the Department of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy is a well-known specialist in the field of Physical Therapy, Doctor of Science in Physical Education and Sports, Professor Olena Lazarijeva. That is why the NUUPES was proposed to introduce in 2019-2020 a new (pilot) Master's Program in Physical Therapy (based on new content and innovative teaching methods) and to prepare 200 masters in Physical Therapy by 2022.

To resolve this issue, first of all, it was:

- the analysis of educational programs and the experience of forming general and professional competencies in PT education in the countries of the European Union was studied;
- the professional competencies of a physical therapist according to the recommendations of the European Network of Physical Therapy in Higher Education (ENPHE) was studied [8];
- a four-year bachelor's degree program on PT was developed;
- a new educational and professional program on the specialization 227.1 “Physical therapy” for the second (master's) level of higher education was developed;
- a course of programs for the 1st year of the master's program were developed: “Physical Therapy in Gerontology and Geriatrics”, “Research Methods in Science of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy”, “Physical Therapy in

Trauma and Polytrauma”, “Physical Therapy in Surgical and Onco surgical Diseases”.

The implementation of the new national educational professional program on Physical Therapy began in September 2019.

The purpose of the educational program is to train specialists capable to identify and effectively solve complex specialized tasks and practical problems of an innovative and scientific nature in the field of healthcare, in particular in Physical Therapy.

The educational program consistent with the recommendations of the project of the European Higher Education Structure Equalization and the requirements of professional association: The World Confederation of Physical Therapy (WCPT).

In order to avoid a conflict between the Ukrainian standard and international requirements, and due to the obligatory number of hours of practice, it is planned to increase duration of study in magistracy from 1 year 4 months (90 credits) to 1 year 9 months (120 credits). For this purpose, the NUUPES, together with the World Federation of Ergotherapists and the NATO Agency for Maintenance and Supply, prepared an appeal to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine with a request to support the need for the implementation of Master's programs in specialty 227 Physical Therapy and Ergotherapy for 1 year and 9 months (120 credits), and received permission to increase term of study at partner universities of the REHAB project in Ukraine as part of the implementation of a pilot Master's program in physical therapy since 2019.

In the educational program, developed on the basis of new content, represent programmatic competencies (integral and general) and professional, knowledge-based, and not authoritarian regulation of the educational process.

The list of components of the educational program includes disciplines, practices and qualification work. The components of the educational program are divided into compulsory, which include the disciplines of specialty (42 credits) and the disciplines of specialization (48 credits). The total required amount is 90 credits. The disciplines of the specialty include: "Research Methods in Science of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy" (4 credits); "Professionally-oriented foreign language" (10 credits); "Information technologies in the field of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy" (3 credits); "Public Health" (4 credits); "Clinical Practice" (13 credits) and "Qualification work" (8 credits). The disciplines of specialization include: "Methods of examination in Physical Therapy" (4 credits); "Physical Therapy in chronic nonspecific diseases of the present" (4 credits); "Physical Therapy following trauma and polytrauma" (6 credits); "Physical Therapy in Surgical and Onco surgical diseases" (3 credits); "Physical Therapy in Gerontology and Geriatrics" (5 credits); "Manual Manual Physical Therapy Techniques" (5 credits); "Physical Therapy in Obstetrics, Gynecology and Pediatrics" (5 credits); "Therapeutic and rehabilitation massage in Neonatology and Pediatrics" (4 credits) and "Clinical Practice in Physical Therapy" (12 credits).

Selected components of the educational program are divided into two blocks. Selective block 1 involves the assimilation of professional and practical skills in



Physical Therapy of persons with a traumatological and orthopedic profile, and selective block 2 - Physical Therapy of persons with a neurological profile. The total amount of each selective component is 30 credits. The total amount of the educational program is 120 credits (unlike the previous one - 90). Selective disciplines in selective block 1 include: "Physical Therapy in Combustiology" (3 credits); "Physical Therapy after limb amputation" (4 credits); "Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy after joints endoprosthetics" (3 credits); "The Kinesio Taping Method" (3 credits); "Physical Therapy for Chronic Nonspecific Pain Syndrome" (5 credits) and "Clinical Practice" (12 credits). Selective disciplines in selective block 2 include: "Physical Therapy in Neurological Rehabilitation" (7 credits); "Physical Therapy for children with organic nervous system lesions" (3 credits); "Goal-Oriented Therapy" (4 credits); "Gait Analysis: Normal and Pathological; and selection of auxiliary means" (4 credits) and "Clinical Practice" (12 credits). According to the developed educational and professional program, a curriculum for the preparation of applicants for the master's degree is designed, 1 year 9 months, unlike the previous one - 1 year 4 months.

The educational process is carried out on the basis of student-centrism, a competency-based approach, partnership of scientific and pedagogical workers and students, self-education, problem-oriented learning, integration of educational and scientific activities, professional orientation.

Conclusions

The complex macro-processes taking place in Ukraine, its integration into the international educational space, have reflected in the national education system and, in particular, the system of training masters in Physical Therapy. The approaches implemented under the REHAB project are innovative. Therefore, the development and implementation of new (pilot) Master's Degree Programs in Physical Therapy will promote to train high professional Physical Therapy specialists in Ukraine according to European standards.

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