Grant recipient: Dr Carol Coole

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Title of project: Comparing a Reusable Learning Object with Face-to-face Training for Occupational Therapists in Advising on Fitness for Work (CREATE)

Abstract

The government intends to extend Fit Note certification to include Occupational Therapists (OTs). However, recent studies indicate that OTs lack confidence in communicating patients’ fitness to work and thus we urgently need to investigate OTs’ learning needs, and how these might best be met.

Reusable learning objects (RLOs) may be an effective means of delivering on-line training on fitness certification but evidence is inconclusive as to whether on-line methods are as effective as face-to-face group-based HCP training. We therefore wish to compare face-to-face training with a purpose-built RLO, through a feasibility study.

In phase 1, a series of participatory workshops on fitness certification will develop an RLO and a face-to-face group training session. In phase 2a, OTs will attend either face-to-face training or access a RLO and these will be evaluated in a feasibility study. In phase 2b, the RLO will be released as open access and further evaluated.