

## Cluster Enrollment

60 physiotherapists from 12 clinics in Dublin, Ireland will be recruited. The clinic will be the unit of randomization (cluster n=12)

Prior to allocation of clusters to intervention or control arm, participating physiotherapists (n=60) will attend a 1 hour refresher course on the evidence-based management of CLBP and complete a baseline assessment.

## Cluster Allocation

Clinics allocated to intervention (n= 6)

Clinics allocated to control (n= 6)

## Intervention

2x4hr communication skills training workshops

## Patient Enrollment

Potential patients identified from clinic wait-lists will be sent a patient invitation letter. They will be followed up with a telephone call from the Research Physiotherapist advising them of the ongoing study. Patients who are interested in participating will be screened for eligibility. Eligible patients willing to participate will complete the baseline assessment with the Research Physiotherapist 0 to 48 hours before their first physiotherapy appointment. Directly after their first appointment patients will be given a pedometer and complete a short assessment with the research physiotherapist.

n = 146

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## Follow-Up

Patient follow-up assessments will be completed at 4 time points; week 1, week 4, week 12 and week 24. The assessment will be completed by post or online or by phone with a blinded researcher. Physiotherapists will complete a treatment record form and adherence assessment after each patient session.

## Analysis

Intention to treat analyses using linear mixed models.