

Table S2: Key themes (n=13) and the respective research questions formulated after the first EULAR Task Force meeting for the “EULAR recommendations for the generic core competences of Health Professionals in Rheumatology”

| Theme | | Research question |
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| 1. | Knowledge, assessment & recognition of RMDs | a. What knowledge do HPRs have on RMDs? b. How do HPRs identify and assess patients’ resources and limitations? |
| 2. | Knowledge, assessment & recognition of comorbidities and associated diseases | Are HPRs able to identify the signs, symptoms, risks, red flags and comorbidities in RMDs? |
| 3. | Interdisciplinary co-operation/ communication and coordination of care | What is the role of HPRs within the interdisciplinary team for the care of people with RMDs? |
| 4. | HPR interface between clinician and patient | What are the competences needed to optimize communication and advocacy between HPRs, physicians and people with RMDs and their carers? |
| 5. | Medication effects, management of side-effects, knowledge of pharmacological interventions | What competences do HPRs need to explain and support patients’ pharmacological treatments including effectiveness and safety? |
| 6. | Non-pharmacological interventions/Orthotics | What competences do HPRs need to explain the non-pharmacological interventions to people with RMDs and their carers? |
| 7. | Patient and caregiver education (health beliefs, social context, patient attitudes) | What are the competences required in the role of HPRs in patient and carer education and support to optimize health? |
| 8. | Professionalism/remaining up to date/updating knowledge and skills/CPD | How often and how can HPRs update their education and competences? |
| 9. | Goal setting and evaluation; patient support; goal-setting/shared decision making | What competences do HPRs need to support goal-setting and shared decision making in their practice? |

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| 10. | Health promotion and wellbeing ('maintaining good health') | What competences do HPRs need to enable people with RMDs to self-manage? |
| 11. | HPR support to self-manage e.g. identify the needs for specific interventions | a. What competences do HPRs need to support people with RMDs to manage their life with the disease (coping) ? b. What competences do HPRs need to enable people with RMDs to self-manage their disease? |
| 12. | Ability to evaluate effectiveness of interventions on outcomes | What competences do HPRs need to evaluate the effectiveness of their interventions? |
| 13. | Understanding of cost-effective treatment | What competences do HPRs need to understand cost-effective treatment? |

RMDs: Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases, HPRs: Health Professionals in Rheumatology, CPD: Continuous Professional Development