

## **POSTER: TEACHER PERSPECTIVES OF ONLINE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

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Objective: Initial teacher education in regards to motor skill assessment and instruction is limited. Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is important to ensure teachers have the knowledge and skills needed, but teachers cannot always access CPD face to face. Online CPD may provide an avenue for more effective delivery and outcomes, yet there has been no research to date around teachers' needs, concerns and suggestions for online CPD. This research aimed to i) explore teachers' perceptions of online CPD, and ii) provide recommendations in regards to the development and provision of future online CPD, with a particular focus on motor skill assessment and instruction. Methods: Teachers (n=22) participated in focus group discussions (FGs). FGs were audio recorded, transcribed verbatim and analysed in NVivo 11 using an inductive thematic approach. Results: Three major themes and several subthemes emerged from the data. Firstly, there was significant motivation and need for online CPD, with the most prevalent reason being the accessibility afforded by this approach. Secondly, although there was a perceived need for online CPD, teachers reported considerable caution and concern around its use, especially in regards to the lack of a 'community of practice'. Thirdly, teachers provided multiple suggestions and considerations for future online motor skill CPD. In summary, online CPD should: i) be evidence-based; ii) provide pedagogical content knowledge, not just content knowledge; iii) be informed by teachers and translatable to practice (i.e., improves teaching); iv) facilitate a community of practice (collaboration with peers and access to expert); v) be interactive; vi) be simple to navigate; and vii) be highly visual. It is clear from teacher feedback that the cautions and concerns have the potential to render an online system unusable. This research has provided novel insights and valuable recommendations in regards to the design, development and delivery of future online motor skill CPD.