

## Supplemental Material

**Annexure 1:** Literature search strategy, transferred across two databases (PubMed and Web of Science). Search was performed on 30/10/2024, yielding 56 and 365 results across the two respective databases. Following title and abstract screening, there were 14 unique papers. After full text screening, 8 papers were deemed to be relevant to the objective of the search.

### PubMed – search strategy:

((general practice[MeSH Terms]) OR ('GP'[Title/Abstract] OR 'general practitioner'[Title/Abstract] OR 'general practice'[Title/Abstract] OR 'primary care'[Title/Abstract] OR 'family medicine'[Title/Abstract] OR 'family doctor\*'[Title/Abstract]))

AND

((conversion disorder[MeSH Terms]) OR ('FND'[Title/Abstract] OR 'functional neurological disorder'[Title/Abstract] OR 'functional neurological symptom\*'[Title/Abstract] OR 'conversion disorder'[Title/Abstract] OR 'NEAD'[Title/Abstract] OR 'non-epileptic attack'[Title/Abstract] OR 'psychogenic seizure\*'[Title/Abstract] OR 'functional seizure\*'[Title/Abstract] OR 'psychogenic movement'[Title/Abstract] OR 'dissociative seizure\*'[Title/Abstract] OR 'dissociative motor disorder'[Title/Abstract] OR 'dissociative movement disorder'[Title/Abstract] OR 'dissociative disorder\*'[Title/Abstract] OR 'pseudoseizure\*'[Title/Abstract] OR 'pseudo-seizure\*'[Title/Abstract] OR 'non-epileptic seizure\*'[Title/Abstract]))

AND

((knowledge, attitudes, practice [MeSH terms]) OR ('KAP'[Title/Abstract] OR 'knowledge'[Title/Abstract] OR 'attitude\*'[Title/Abstract] OR 'practice'[Title/Abstract] OR 'knowledge, attitude and practice\*'[Title/Abstract] OR 'knowledge, attitude, and practice\*'[Title/Abstract] OR 'perspective\*'[Title/Abstract] OR 'perception\*'[Title/Abstract] OR 'diagnosis'[Title/Abstract] OR 'misdiagnosis'[Title/Abstract]))

### Web of Science – search strategy:

(TI=('general practice' OR 'GP' OR 'general practitioner' OR 'primary care' OR 'family medicine' OR 'family doctor\*')) OR AB=('general practice' OR 'GP' OR 'general practitioner' OR 'primary care' OR 'family medicine' OR 'family doctor\*')

AND

(TI=('conversion disorder' OR 'FND' OR 'functional neurological disorder' OR 'functional neurological symptom\*' OR 'conversion disorder' OR 'NEAD' OR 'non-epileptic attack' OR 'psychogenic seizure\*' OR 'functional seizure\*' OR 'psychogenic movement' OR 'dissociative seizure\*' OR 'dissociative movement disorder' OR 'dissociative motor disorder' OR 'dissociative disorder' OR 'pseudoseizure' OR 'pseudo-seizure' OR 'non-epileptic seizure\*')) OR AB=('conversion disorder' OR 'FND' OR 'functional neurological disorder' OR 'functional neurological symptom\*' OR 'conversion disorder' OR 'NEAD' OR 'non-epileptic attack' OR 'psychogenic seizure\*' OR 'functional seizure\*' OR 'psychogenic

movement' OR 'dissociative seizure\*' OR 'dissociative movement disorder' OR 'dissociative motor disorder' OR 'dissociative disorder' OR 'pseudoseizure' OR 'pseudo-seizure' OR 'non-epileptic seizure\*')

AND

(TI=('KAP' OR 'knowledge' OR 'attitude\*' OR 'practice' OR 'knowledge, attitude and practice' OR 'knowledge, attitude, and practice' OR 'perspective' OR 'perception' OR 'diagnosis' OR 'misdiagnosis')) OR AB=('KAP' OR 'knowledge' OR 'attitude\*' OR 'practice' OR 'knowledge, attitude and practice' OR 'knowledge, attitude, and practice' OR 'perspective' OR 'perception' OR 'diagnosis' OR 'misdiagnosis')

**Annexure 2:** Survey questionnaire uploaded to Google Forms and distributed to primary care practitioners.

**Demographic Information:**

**1. Which option best describes your profession?**

- GP
- GP trainee
- Foundation doctor
- Nurse / Advanced Clinical Practitioner
- Physician Associate
- Other HCP (*please specify*)

**2. How many years have you been practising in primary care?**

- <5
- 5-10
- 11-15
- >15

**Knowledge:**

**3. In your opinion, which of the following statements most appropriately describes the concept of functional neurological disorder (FND)?**

- A psychological condition manifesting as neurological symptoms
- A diagnosis made by exclusion of other causes for neurological symptoms
- Neurological symptoms without a structural or organic cause, due to problems with the functioning of the nervous system
- Non-specific, generalised physical symptoms without an identified organic cause
- Episodes resembling epileptic seizures but not associated with electrical brain activity
- A psychological condition caused solely by stress
- Symptoms that are voluntary and under the patient's control
- A condition influenced by biological, psychological, and social factors

- A rare and unusual condition
- Not a legitimate medical condition
- Stress-induced episodes
- A name used when neurologists cannot make the diagnosis
- A form of malingering (faking symptoms for personal gain)
- A treatable condition requiring a multidisciplinary approach
- Not sure / Not enough knowledge in FND
- Other (*please specify*)

**4. How do you believe FND can present? (*select all that apply*)**

- Seizures / Convulsions
- Weakness / Paralysis
- Cognitive impairment
- Sensory changes
- Visual changes
- Gait abnormalities
- Fainting / Dissociative episodes
- Movement disorders
- Bladder disorders
- Persistent dizziness
- Not sure / Not enough knowledge in FND
- Other (*please specify*)

**5. To what extent to you feel you have received adequate education about FND as part of your training?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure / Not enough knowledge in FND

6. To what extent do you agree that you feel confident in *recognising* patients with FND, in primary care?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure / Not enough knowledge in FND

7. To what extent do you agree that feel confident in *explaining a diagnosis* of FND to a patient, in primary care?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure / Not enough knowledge in FND

**Attitudes:**

8. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

a. *'People with functional neurological disorders are in control of their symptoms'*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure / Not enough knowledge in FND

b. *'Functional neurological disorder patients' symptoms are all in their mind'*

- Strongly agree
- Agree

- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure / Not enough knowledge in FND

c. *'In my experience, these patients often don't want to get better'*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure / Not enough knowledge in FND

d. *'People with functional neurological disorders are manipulative / attention-seeking'*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure / Not enough knowledge in FND

e. *'Functional neurological disorders are genuine conditions arising from abnormal brain function, where symptoms are not intentionally produced'*

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure / Not enough knowledge in FND

9. **In your opinion, what is the role of a general practitioner in managing patients with FND? (select all that apply)**

- Diagnosing and personally following up patients
- Recognising FND and referring patients to a specialist

- Providing patient education and an explanation of the diagnosis
- Co-ordinating care as part of an MDT approach
- Recommending the most appropriate management strategies for the condition
- Not sure / Not enough knowledge in FND

**10. In your opinion, which of the following specialties should be responsible for managing patients with FND? (select all that apply)**

- General practitioner
- Neurologist
- Psychiatrist
- Psychologist
- Physiotherapist
- Not sure / Not enough knowledge in FND

**Practice:**

**11. How frequently do you encounter patients in primary care, with symptoms suggestive of FND?**

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Rarely
- Never
- Not sure / Not enough knowledge in FND

**12. To what extent do you believe the numbers of FND patients you see are increasing over the years?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Not sure / Not enough knowledge in FND

**13. What challenges do you face when managing patients with FND, in primary care? (select all that apply)**

- Lack of training/knowledge
- Difficulty diagnosing the condition
- Patient scepticism/non-compliance
- Lack of MDT/specialist support
- Arranging multiple and timely referrals
- Stigma associated with the diagnosis
- Time constraints for consultations
- Lack of patient education materials
- Lack of national guidelines
- Not sure / Not enough knowledge in FND
- Other (*please specify*)

**14. Which of the following do you believe would be helpful for you to manage this patient group in the community? (select all that apply)**

- A trust-wide dedicated FND service with an agreed care plan
- Access to specialised psychology support
- Access to community rehabilitation
- Access to hypnotherapy
- Access to trauma therapy / EMDR
- Access to psychiatry input
- Pain management
- Fatigue management
- Not sure / Not enough knowledge in FND
- Other (*please specify*)

**15. To what extent would you be interested in receiving further training to develop an extended role in the community as a part of the FND service?**

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Neutral
- Somewhat unlikely

Very unlikely

Not sure / Not enough knowledge in FND

**16. What additional support/resources would help you better manage patients with FND in primary care? (*free text response*)**