**Table 1 Themes, categories, Subcategories and codes developed**

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| **Themes** | **Categories** | **Subcategories** | **Codes** |
| Practice development | Propositional Knowledge | Poor foundation of practical experience  Research evidence for practice | * Undergraduate training * Postgraduate courses * Keeping up to date * Controversy and lack of evidence |
| Procedural Knowledge | Experience  Evaluation  Effectiveness | * Working with colleagues * Working with the materials * Knowing the outcomes and goals * Reflection on successes and errors * Measurement of improvement * Patient response |
| Personal Knowledge | Individual growth  Listen to patients | * Interpretation * Adapted for preferences * Patient’s goals |
| Clinical reasoning | Procedural reasoning | Client factors  Performance skills | * Range of motion * Muscle tone * Pain and others * Motor and praxis skills |
| Interactive reasoning | Individual patient - internal performance components  The risks | * Personality * Age * Hand dominance * Treating the hand in isolation * Factors affecting splinting and compliance |
| Conditional reasoning | Total patient – external performance components  Therapy comes first  The whole picture | * Family and caregivers * Education * Resources * Preferred alternative treatment * Therapy more important initially * Combination of all factors |