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A New Opportunity for Occupational Therapy: The Development of a Clinical Capability Framework

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Background:

Professional capability refers to the ability of an individual to apply knowledge and skills as required to carry out their professional role in dynamic and evolving contexts. The development of a clinical capability framework within Queensland Health Occupational Therapy has been identified as one of the key outcomes for the Occupational Therapy Clinical Education Program.

Aim/Purpose:

The aim of this paper is to outline the development of a Capability Framework for Occupational Therapy within Queensland Health. A brief overview of the Queensland Occupational Therapy Clinical Education Program (OTCEP) will be presented, and the overall aims of the program discussed, to provide a contextual background for the development of the Capability Framework.

Method:

The paper will highlight the decision making processes leading to our focus on 'Capability' through a discussion of the relevance of Capability and Competency frameworks to Occupational Therapy. The core functions of the Framework will be identified, and an overarching model presented. We will outline the consultative approach taken to develop the Framework, and the role of various stakeholders involved. An overall outline of the Framework will be presented followed by a more detailed presentation of a single 'Capability Domain.' Finally, an example of a corresponding learning module, integral to the practical application of the Framework in the workplace will be presented.

Conclusion:

Early impressions of the application of the Framework in the workplace will be presented.

Learning Outcomes: