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Applying the WHO International Classification of Function with a Community Therapy Team

Jill Hummell, Tim Fairbairn

Westmead Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service, Sydney, NSW, Australia

Background: The Community Rehabilitation Team (CRT), Westmead Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service, has been using the World Health Organization (WHO) International Classification of Function (ICF) as one of the core frameworks underpinning service provision for the past four years. The key purpose of the CRT is to provide multidisciplinary therapy to facilitate the community integration of adults following a traumatic brain injury and the adjustment of family members. Three occupational therapists are core members of the team. **Purpose:** The ICF provides the team with a multi-professional structure to ensure a focus on clients' community participation, while also addressing body structure and function and activity issues as required. This approach is consistent with occupational therapy philosophy. **Approach:** Goals are established collaboratively with clients and family members and documented in a database according to three ICF components: body structure and function, activity and participation. As the team perceived that the needs of family members were not sufficiently acknowledged in the ICF, a fourth component 'family' was added. Every three months client and family goals are reviewed during team meetings and new goals established and documented. An analysis of goal achievement in the past two years was conducted in late 2008. **Practice Implications:** This presentation will explain the manner in which the CRT uses the ICF to assist in structuring service provision, provide examples of occupational therapy goals established using the ICF components, describe the outcomes of the goal achievement analysis and future directions. The limitations of this approach will also be outlined. **Conclusion:** Members of the CRT, including occupational therapists, consider the ICF a beneficial framework to underpin its service provision and to formulate, document and review client and family centred goals. **Learning Outcomes:** Participants will learn about a successful application of the ICF in a community rehabilitation service.