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**Can you read your client's handwriting? An investigation of adult handwriting legibility measures.**

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Background: Handwriting legibility is important for effective written communication. Poor handwriting legibility often occurs after stroke, and is a common reason for referral to occupational therapy. One instrument which has been adapted to measure adult handwriting legibility is an adapted version of the Evaluation Tool of Children's Handwriting, but this instrument takes 15-20 minutes to score. A faster Four-Point Rating Scale has been used to assess clinicians' handwriting, but this instrument is insensitive to change. A novel instrument (the Modified Four-Point Legibility Rating Scale) has been developed by the authors to rate handwriting legibility in adults, and provides a balance between responsiveness and scoring speed. Methods: This inter-rater reliability study involves three trained occupational therapy raters. Each rater used the three aforementioned instruments to score 60 handwriting samples from 30 healthy adults aged 65+. Rater agreement is being compared for all three instruments using the ICC<sub>3,1</sub> and kappa statistic. Results: Findings from this study will be complete by November, and will indicate which of the three legibility scales is most useful for clinical practice. Inter-rater reliability of scoring procedures will be considered 'good' if the ICC<sub>3,1</sub> is >0.50 or the k is >0.60, and 'excellent' if the ICC<sub>3,1</sub> is >0.75 or the k is >0.80. Conclusion: An instrument with reliable scoring procedures is required to assess the legibility of adults' handwriting. Professionals attending this conference will have an opportunity to see the scoring procedures being demonstrated for each of the three instruments.