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**Using the Accent Domestic Assistance Matrix (A.D.A.M.) to undertake a retrospective audit of medicolegal reports to quantify domestic assistance using a risk matrix.**

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Undertaking domestic care assessments and predicting domestic care is becoming an increasing component of occupational therapy practice. This is particularly relevant for therapists undertaking medicolegal assessments and working with clients with compensable injuries. The process occupational therapists undertake in predicting and estimating domestic care is undergoing particular scrutiny as the cost of care (gratuitous and paid) is quickly becoming a major head of damages in settling compensation claims. Discrepancies in domestic assistance recommendations is prevalent. This is due to the content and process of clinical reasoning being highly individual, dependent upon experience and knowledge and the client context.

Accent Health Sciences has developed the Accent Domestic Assistance Matrix (A.D.A.M.) to determine the relationship between the total risk score and the recommendation of hours of domestic care. The A.D.A.M. was developed following consultation with occupational therapists external to Accent who provide recommendations and requests to Insurers for the provision of domestic assistance. This information combined with a literature review was synthesised into the risk matrix.

The purpose of this paper is to present pilot findings where the A.D.A.M has been retrospectively applied to over 300 medicolegal assessments to determine whether a risk matrix can be used to estimate domestic care hours across a range of client diagnosis. The A.D.A.M audit was applied by University of Western Sydney Occupational Therapy students as part of their final project.

Findings are pending at the time of this submission however will identify the A.D.A.M.'s ability to facilitate the relationship between the total risk score and the number of hours of domestic assistance provided. This will have implications for occupational therapists, Insurers and legal representatives.

At the end of this presentation you will be familiar with current research into domestic assistance and formulating of recommendations as well as be familiar with the A.D.A.M.'s possible usefulness as a tool to predict domestic care recommendations.