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Keywords

Research, Service evaluation, Participation, Long term conditions (including neurological)

P132**The perceived impact of type 2 diabetes upon human occupation: a role for occupational therapy**

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Introduction: Type 2 diabetes currently affects 90% of the 2.9 million people diagnosed with diabetes mellitus in the United Kingdom, and costs the National Health Service an estimated £13bn per year (Diabetes UK 2012, Hex et al 2012). Evidence suggests that existing Type 2 diabetes intervention programmes do not facilitate sustainable lifestyle changes that support effective diabetes self-management (Khunti et al 2012).

Aim: The aim of this research was to enhance understanding of the impact of diabetes on human occupation, and if occupational therapy could support effective diabetes self-management in the United Kingdom. It also strives to contribute to the diabetes and occupational therapy research base, which, to date, is extremely limited internationally.

Method: Ethical approval was obtained from SREGP on 07/11/2012. This research utilised a qualitative and inductive approach to undertake a Basic Interpretive Qualitative Study (Merriam 2009). Data was gathered through the use of semi-structured interviews with eight participants recruited from diabetes support groups. Interviews were recorded and transcribed verbatim.

Findings: Through thematic analysis, three main themes emerged: "Balancing diabetes and everyday life", "The effect of diabetes upon meaningful occupations", and "Coming to terms with diabetes and the importance of support". The findings revealed a myriad of difficulties diabetes imposes upon the person, daily life, and occupational participation, and highlighted the value of peer and professional support.

Conclusion: The findings identify that Type 2 diabetes can impact on engagement in meaningful occupation, occupational roles and established routines. This suggests an important role for occupational therapists practicing in the United Kingdom. They could empower individuals to self-manage their condition and support them to maintain participation in valued occupations.

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Keywords

Long term conditions (including neurological), Health and wellbeing, Research, Practice development

P133**Family-carers' perspectives of involvement in stroke rehabilitation of a family member**

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Stroke has the potential to have a major impact on health and quality of life (Stroke Association, 2012). Occupational therapy supports people to participate in meaningful occupations and return home post stroke (Edmans, 2010). Since the target of 45 minutes of rehabilitation on five days out of seven was recommended (Kwakkel et al, 1997), creative ways to help meet this target have been explored and promoted. Family involvement in rehabilitation has been identified as one option for extending rehabilitation opportunities (Stroke Association, 2012). On return to home following inpatient rehabilitation, many people receive informal care from family members (Kniepmann, 2012).

The purpose of this small-scale, qualitative study was to explore the nature of carers' participation in their family members' rehabilitation, carers level of involvement, and the support and preparation families felt they needed. Family carers were recruited to the study via a voluntary organisation for people post stroke. Semi-structured interviews were used to explore participants' perspectives. Data analysis was conducted using thematic analysis. Ethical approval was gained from the University of Cumbria and permission granted by the charity. The study was self-funded by the researcher.

Four family carers participated in the study. Six key themes were identified: Carer involvement, Satisfaction with involvement, Desired level of involvement, Working hours, Carer role, and Information and support. These findings highlight the challenges raised and additional support required by carers. These findings could assist decision-making regarding the involvement of carers and the development of strategies to aid their participation. Such investment could enable and support family carers in making a valuable contribution to their family members' rehabilitation and to the achievement of the NICE rehabilitation intensity targets, both in in-patient units and on return to home.

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Keywords

Recovery and rehabilitation, Long term conditions (including neurological), Practice development

P134

Assessing research impact: myths, models and multiple dimensions

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Introduction: Assessing research impact is a challenging endeavour (Beacham et al 2005, p1). A mythical view is that publications equate with impact; however, the definition of research impact used by the higher education funding bodies confirms its irrefutably multidimensional nature: an effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life beyond academia (Higher Education Funding Council for England et al 2011, p26). Models, such as the Payback Framework (Buxton and Hanney 1996) and the Becker Medical Library Model (Sarli et al 2010), identify various domains of impact, but are they suitable for assessing the impact of occupational therapy research?

Method: The Becker Model was selected, following a literature review, to gather intelligence on projects completed with support from the United Kingdom Occupational Therapy Research Foundation. Eight researchers participated, completing a form covering research outputs and knowledge advancement; clinical implementation; community and public benefit; and economic benefit. Ethics approval was obtained from the College of Occupational Therapists.

Results: The model supported reporting of more easily quantifiable indicators, such as publications, as well as profiling a range of others; for example, educational activities, engagement of practitioners or service users, and opportunities arising for follow-on funding/projects. Determining any impact on practice and service user outcomes remained, however, inherently more complicated to attribute.

Conclusion: Demonstrating research impact is complex, but vital. A multidimensional framework provides a practical means by which research impact can potentially be captured throughout, and beyond, the life of a project. Occupational therapists should consider the use of an impact assessment model to report, and share, the diversity of their research impact activities with funding bodies and the profession.

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Keywords

Research, Knowledge transfer

P135

Perspectives of the VdT model of creative ability

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Originating in South Africa, the Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability (VdT MoCA) is widely applied in OT practice and taught on the majority of undergraduate programmes in South Africa (Casteleijn & Graham 2012). The VdT MoCA is becoming an established model and the model of choice in a number of NHS trusts and independent healthcare providers in the UK.

In 2013 an on-line survey was conducted of 72 occupational therapists and support workers to:

- Gain insight into perspectives on the VdT MoCA
- Identify potential areas for development in the model
- Identify potential professional development needs of participants
- Identify potential areas for research.

The results support Chinembiri's (2011) findings that the model is predominantly applied in mental health and learning disabilities services. However, the model is also used across a broad range of fields of practice and settings, including paediatrics. This survey provides new insights into the use of the model in the UK and its perceived strengths and limitations. The data predominantly indicates that respondents perceive the model as highly valuable for increasing their clinical reasoning, confidence and effectiveness as OTs and OT support workers, thus increasing job satisfaction and professional identity. The model is perceived to have good utility for practice; however, there are also indications of the need to improve resources on the model and a need for continuing professional development opportunities.

Following this survey, occupational therapists were also surveyed regarding their perspectives of the research priorities for the