SELECTING STANDARDIZED OUTCOME MEASURES IN THE NEUROLOGICAL PATIENT POPULATION: PROCESS, BARRIERS AND APPLICATION

Stacia Britton, PT, DPT, NCS, CEEAA
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Disclaimers

■ “Any opinions expressed today are mine alone, and are not official positions of the North Carolina Physical Therapy Board.”

Objectives

■ Upon completion of this course, attendees will be able to:
  - 1. Discuss the significance and influencing factors for use of standardized outcome measures in physical therapy practice.
  - 2. Review a process for selecting appropriate standardized outcome measures.
  - 3. Critically analyze patient cases for selection of appropriate standardized outcome measures.
  - 4. Implement a decision-making process to utilize across the continuum of care for outcome measure selection.
  - 5. Ascertain resources to assist in choosing an appropriate standardized outcome measures.

Outcome Measures

■ Tests that we use to help quantify a patient's performance or status
  - Help to track change
  - Look at various areas of functioning
  - Support clinical decision making
  - Communicating patient status
  - Treatment Interventions

Outcome Measures

■ World Health Organization: ICF Model
  - Looking at different areas of functioning

Outcome Measures

■ In what settings are outcome measures typically performed?
■ What types of outcome measures are typically performed?
■ What should we look for when selecting a test?
■ How many therapists are administering outcome measures?
Outcome Measures

Factors influencing use of outcome measures:
- Characteristics of the Assessment Tool
- The Therapist
- The Workplace
- The Patient
- Influential Individuals or Organizations

Outcome Measures

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- Characteristics of the Assessment Tool

Outcome Measures

Factors influencing use of outcome measures:
- The Therapist

Outcome Measures

Factors influencing use of outcome measures:
- The Workplace

Outcome Measures

Factors influencing use of outcome measures:
- The Patient

Outcome Measures

Factors influencing use of outcome measures:
- Influential Individuals or Organizations
Outcome Measures

- Improving use of outcome measures:
  - Awareness
  - Perceived relevance
  - Applicability
  - Institutional Support

Determining Which Outcome Measures to Use

- Potter et al. (2011)
  - Proposed a framework for decision making for selecting outcome measures.

Decision-Making Framework as Described by Potter et al. (2011)

- Factors to Consider at Each Step
  - What to measure
  - Purpose of the measure
  - Type of measure
  - Patient and clinic factors
  - Psychometric properties
  - Feasibility

Factors to Consider at Each Step

- Discriminative
- Predictive
- Evaluative

Factors to Consider at Each Step

- Disease specific vs. generic
- Method of delivery
Decision-Making Framework as Described by Potter et al. (2011)

- Factors to Consider at Each Step
  - Patient and clinic factors
  - Psychometric properties
    - Validity
    - Reliability
    - Accuracy
    - Responsiveness
  - Feasibility
    - Time
    - Space
    - Equipment
    - Training / Cost
    - Proprietary concerns

Resources

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Implementing the Use of Outcome Measures

- Stevens and Beurskens (2010) proposed a strategy for implementation of outcome measures.
  - Proposal for improvement
  - Problem analysis
  - Development of assessment strategies
  - Testing of the implementation plan
  - Evaluation of the implementation plan
Implementing the Use of Outcome Measures

How will you use what you have learned today to influence your practice?

Summary

- A clinical reasoning process to help guide the selection of outcome measures is beneficial in guiding therapists.
- There are many factors that influence the selection of outcome measures.
- Overcoming barriers to use of outcome measures is possible when tailoring to specific therapist/institutional needs.

References