

## Title: Therapists' and Clients' Perceptions of the Occupational Performance History Interview

**Authors:** Apte, Kielhofner, Paul-Ward, & Braveman

**Major Finding:** Therapists and clients felt that the OPHI-II provided them with the opportunity to build rapport, generate an understanding of the client's life, and plan goals for therapy.

**Participants:** n= 7

- 6 male, 1 female.
- Age: 24 years – 50 years.
- Diagnostic Condition: 7 HIV +, 4 history of substance abuse, 4 receiving treatment for mental disorders.
- Setting: USA; 7 clients lived in 1 of 3 transitional living facilities.
- Ethnicity: 1 Hispanic/Latino(a), 6 African-American.
- 3 clinicians representing a range of experience in occupational therapy, from 20 years to a new practitioner, administered the OPHI-II to clients who were participants in a larger federally-funded study "Enabling Self-Determination (ESD) for people living with AIDS" (H133G020217-3).

**Method:** Qualitative interviews were completed after OPHI-II administration with both client and therapist. Therapists' interview questions focused on use of the OPHI-II and clients were asked about the interview purpose and perception of therapists' understanding of their experiences.

**Analysis:** Thematic analysis of interviews. Member checks were conducted by all therapists and 5 cli-

### Findings:

- Clients felt that the OPHI-II interview provided them with the opportunity to communicate with the therapist, helped them to clarify their thoughts and feelings, and come up with new ideas for the future. Clients also found the narrative slope motivating.
- Therapists noted the importance of administering the OPHI-II through one or more natural conversations tailored to the needs and abilities of each individual client.
- At the therapist's discretion, the narrative slope should be completed as part of the interview process with client input or assistance, and a copy should be offered to the client upon completion.

**Conclusion:** The OPHI-II is designed to be administered in a manner that is maximally flexible. It should vary according to both therapist and client needs in order to facilitate good rapport, understanding of clients' life experiences, and planning of goals and services. Findings suggest that clients should be included in not only determining the depth and number of interview sessions, but also creation of the narrative slope. This will tend to foster a better foundation for an ongoing, productive client relationship.

**Implications for future research:** Client and therapist perceptions of the 3 OPHI-II rating scales may provide useful feedback for future versions. A larger and more heterogeneous sample could contribute to a better understanding of how the OPHI-II is experienced in actual use and therefore provide evidence of how to optimize administration of this and other standardized assessments.

### Evidence-based practice implications:

- **Clients should validate or be involved in creation of the narrative slope and receive their own copy.**
- **The narrative interview is best viewed as the beginning of an ongoing conversation.**

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