



Model of Human Occupation

Archived List Serv Discussion

Assessments in Older Persons Mental Health

April 9, 2009

Hi all

I work in Older Persons Mental Health Services predominantly with clients with dementia. I wonder if there are others of you out there working with this client group and finding any particular assessments useful. The service is hoping to have some staff AMPS trained, but I wondered are there other more easily accessible assessments which others have experiences of and can recommend.

Many Thanks
Kate Morriss

April 15, 2009

Hi Kate,

Unless the clients are at a milder stage of dementia where the decision is about levels of independent living and necessary care, the AMPS might be more than is needed. The MOHOST would give an overall view of not only motor and process skills but also communication interaction as well as a read on volition and habitation. So you might consider it. For clients with more severe dementia in institutional settings, i would storngly consider the volitional questionnaire as a way to get a read on remaining motivation. Also a recent study by Rabner on this group provides very useful insight as to the reasons for and ways that the VQ can be used.

Gary Kielhofner

April 27, 2009

Hi Tom

I don't work with older people but I have worked with a variety of ages and have always found MOHOST a good assessment and a outcome measure which can use in conjunction with OSA because you get the views of the person and therapists and MOHOST assists in identifies areas which can be focused on

Lucy chambers

April 27, 2009

Dear Tom-

You bring up an interesting point- how do you communicate with other professionals that sometimes a "decrease" on an assessment actually represents an improvement!!! Another good example with the OSA is that what if values "decrease" because the client now does a better job prioritizing what is really MOST important to them??

I think that your situation illustrates that numbers associated with assessments are merely "tools" that help us interpret the client's situation and change. We also need to use theory and narrative explanation to interpret for others the meaning of those numbers. Based on your thoughtful email, I am sure you do this already! What about providing a MOHO inservice to other professionals and staff working in your unit?? Perhaps that will help them interpret these results- A powerpoint and handout explaining MOHO can be downloaded at: <http://www.moho.uic.edu/othermohorelatedsrcs.html>

Best-

Jessica