



Model of Human Occupation

Archived List Serv Discussion

REIS

June 5, 2009

I know that it is not its primary purpose, however has anyone ever used the REIS or any variation of it to evaluate an acute mental health facility environment? We've been looking at strategies for review/evaluation of ward programme and environment, appropriate stimulation etc.

Jacqui

June 8, 2009

Jackie-

With the REIS (Residential Environment Impact Survey), since it is a semi-structured tool, you are free to use parts of it that match your environment or your information needs. You may not be able to use the entire rating form however if you don't have enough information in some of the categories due to not using all of the components.

I encourage you to try using it and letting us know how that goes. It is generic enough that I think at least 75% is relevant for that type of setting.

In case some of you were wondering, the REIS is a MOHO-based environmental assessment, download for free at <http://www.moho.uic.edu/REISinformation.html>

Gail

June 11, 2009

Hi Jackie,

I think that is a great idea! It would be an excellent way of evaluating an inpatient environment.

Moses

June 12, 2009

Hi Jacquie and Gail

Thank you for posting your query re using the REIS on an acute mental health unit. It's very timely as we have just finished piloted the REIS, in an adapted form, on two dementia assessment units. Although we understand that this instrument was developed within smaller, community group homes, we wanted to trial it's usefulness within our inpatient units. Another reason for trialling the REIS, on the first unit, was to ascertain its usefulness as a structured approach to evaluating the environment. An additional trial was then conducted, on a second unit, in order to gather information to back up a funding bid, and to provide a comparison with the first site.

On initial view the tool looks to be extensive, and can seem to be a bit daunting, however when carried out in the individual components, data was easily gathered and provided a range of useful information. The rating scale enabled information to be logically ordered and provided themes for summary finding and making recommendations.

Using a group format to gather views from residents, within our client group was not feasible. We needed to adapt this aspect, and used individual interview to ascertain views. Within dementia care ensuring that people's voices are heard is always a challenge. This aspect needs to be further explored to ensure that these clients' views are fully represented.

Having use of this tool, within the two assessment units, has enabled us to be as unbiased and objective as we could in our observations and conclusions. It certainly surprised us how much information we gathered through using the tool, and provided us with a richer analysis of peoples occupational lives.

We deviated from the tool on the recommendations section in that we just provided a general summary of findings, and recommendations for changes. In addition we also thought it important to provide a section detailing the strengths and positive aspects we had observed whilst using the tool.

Overall we found this tool to be useful as a framework to structure our observations and to analyse the factors influencing people's occupational lives. We concluded that using this tool has been positive and has enabled us to structure our thoughts and observations on residential environments. In addition it has provided us with a clear report format to feedback this information to all stakeholders.

We would be very interested to hear of anyone else's experience of using the REIS, particularly within different settings.

Pauline Carlyle and Janet Folland

June 17, 2009

Hi Gail and Jackie,
I was planning to use the (Residential Environment Impact Survey) in the review of day services being undertaken by our local authority. Our service users with Learning

Disabilities are moving out of adult resource centre placements and undertaking day activities in their own communities. This has meant using a wider variety of community resources to participate in activities (examples are community centres, scout huts and a community farm). These resources vary in quality and understandably there is a bit of resistance to these changes from some carers and members of the community. Our group of staff has looked at the walk through part of the REIS and added to some of the sections to fit a daytime occupation environment. We have piloted it first at the adult resource centre but found we needed to make a few changes to the wording of the bits we added to make it easier to use. Is it OK to adapt the walkthrough part to our needs?

Sue Young

June 18, 2009

Janet-

I am very pleased that the REIS was useful to you on the dementia assessment units. I appreciate your comment about being able to break it into parts, that is how it was intended to be used as it is too much to do at once. I hope others will use it in whatever way is useful and please let us know about it. Gail

June 25, 2009

Hi Gail,

I work on an adult inpatient mental health unit but am frequently asked to carry out home assessments with patients. This is usually focussed on assessing them carrying out tasks in their home environment but also looks at the physical environment itself. At present I use either a simple report format with headings or I use the physical environment section of the OCAIRS. However, I sometimes need to include a lot of specific details and I was wondering if an adapted version of the REIS might be more useful to me. I know the REIS was designed for group living environments but I was thinking that parts of the format could be used when assessing the homes of individuals, many of whom have support workers going in on domicilliary visits. Specifically I think I could use a large part of the "Walk Through Observation Guide" section.

Does this sound like a sensible idea or is there another assessment tool out there that you think would be more appropriate? I would appreciate your ideas and those of anyone else out there.

Regards, Fiona Johnston

July 7, 2009

Fiona-

The way the REIS is designed, you can use all or part of it as you see fit. However, if you just use one section you will not be able to do the comprehensive ratings of the 24 items

at the end. But if that isn't necessary, then most certainly feel free to use that walk through assessment section of the REIS. If you end up adapting it for individual home use, you can post the adaptation on the MOHO website, according to Dr. Kielhofner, and cite the REIS at the bottom with something like "Adapted from the Residential Environment Impact Scale (2008), Fisher..(and cite other authors)."

I am not aware of a similar home assessment that looks at the occupationally relevant aspects in the same way as the REIS. There are others that look at physical accessibility, and perhaps cognitive accessibility, but not necessarily all of the things OT will be interested in in one place.

Keep me posted on your progress in using it and adapting it for your needs. Gail

July 7, 2009

Sue-

I have checked with Dr. Kielhofner. It is fine to adapt the walk through section of the REIS to be used in a community resource settings. If you end up adapting it for day program use, we request that you post the adaptation on the MOHO website as a pdf file (for free downloading), name it Environmental Assessment of Community Resources or something like that, and cite the REIS at the bottom with something like "Adapted from the Residential Environment Impact Scale (2008), Fisher..(and cite other authors)."

Let me know if you decide to do this, I am happy to look at it and give you my feedback when you have a draft.

Gail