



**Acquired
Brain Injury
Network**

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Conference Presentation Abstract ~ Podium Presentation

Date/Time/Room: Monday, November 3, 2008 2:25 pm – 3:10 pm Toronto III

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Title:

A New Approach to Maintaining Competency in Cognitive Assessment

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Summary:

Purpose: From this presentation, participants will learn about a process of education and knowledge translation regarding therapists' use of standardized cognitive assessments.

Relevance: In an environment that increasingly depends on evidence based practice and the use of assessments, the long term goal of this project was to facilitate current and future therapists to appropriately select, administer, and interpret a range of standardized cognitive assessments. Therapists who work with persons with acquired brain injury are frequently required to provide direction regarding cognitive status as it impacts function.

Description: The initial objective was to establish baseline knowledge and competency regarding cognitive assessments of the occupational therapists (OTs) within the organization. This was completed through a survey to determine awareness, use, and clinical reasoning concerning cognitive assessments being administered. Chart audits were completed to appraise baseline and post-intervention use of cognitive assessments. The intervention was the development of educational resources about cognitive assessments, including assessment summaries, instructional videos, and documentation guidelines. These were prepared by a motivated group of OTs and provided to the large group within the organization via the intranet.

Discussion: Initial results of impact suggest that OTs demonstrated increased competency in ability to select, administer, and interpret cognitive assessments through this process. New staff benefit from available resources early in their orientation.

Conclusions: Competencies such as the appropriate use of cognitive assessments have been addressed with various methods in the past; however, this systematic process appears to be more successful and sustainable.

Outcomes/Objectives:

Participants will learn about a process of education and knowledge translation regarding therapists' use of standardized cognitive assessments. Specifically, participants will consider how to incorporate student and therapist interest into sustainable and practical resources.