



**Acquired  
Brain Injury  
Network**

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## **Conference Presentation Abstract ~ Poster**

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**Title:**

**Evaluating Work Readiness Following ABI: Building a Shared Understanding**

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**Summary:**

**Background:** Evaluation of work readiness following an acquired brain injury (ABI) is a challenging process, requiring collaboration between numerous stakeholders. Research has examined varied client, workplace and environmental factors associated with return to work post-ABI. However, little is known about the best method for evaluating work readiness and how specific factors are considered in the process.

**Objective:** This presentation will present findings from a research study which examined how clinicians evaluate work readiness following ABI in order to develop an integrated theory and model that explains this process.

**Methods:** A qualitative research design using grounded theory methodology was employed for data collection, analysis and theory development. Ten occupational therapists with experience in vocational and ABI rehabilitation participated. Three sources of data were collected and triangulated including: in-depth interviews, a practice context survey and participants' blank evaluation protocols. Themes and contextual influences were identified across data sources and integrated into the model of Building a Shared Understanding of Work Readiness.

**Results:** The model elucidates the key factors, stakeholders and processes relevant to work readiness evaluation. These include: drawing upon diverse sources of information and perspectives, assessing occupational capacity, understanding occupational potential, enabling a shared understanding amongst stakeholders (e.g. client, health care team, employer and insurer) and transforming the work readiness question.

**Conclusions:** The model will be discussed in terms of how individuals and teams can use the model to guide return to work decision-making. Plans are underway to utilize the model to develop evaluation guidelines and workplace-based evaluation tools.

**Outcomes/Objectives:**

Participant will learn about the model of Building a Shared Understanding of Work Readiness, developed from a research study, and how the model can be used to guide return to work evaluation and decision-making following ABI.