Occupational Therapy November 2026

The aim of this current awareness bulletin is to provide a digest of recent guidelines, reports, research and best practice in Occupational Therapy. Part of this bulletin draws on content created by Manchester University NHS FT and University Hospitals Dorset NHS Trust

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Published Research

1. **Beyond Detoxification: The Critical Role of Occupational Therapy in Addiction Clinics.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Bardakci, Muhammed Rasit;Yazici, Ahmet Bulent;Demirci, Hande Tugce and Yazici, Esra

Publication Date: Nov ,2026

Journal: Drug & Alcohol Review 45(7), pp. e70281

Abstract: INTRODUCTION: This study examines the impact of occupational therapy (OT) activities-such as music, painting and sports-on treatment outcomes for patients with alcohol and substance use disorder treated at the inpatient addiction treatment unit of Sakarya University Training and Research Hospital, in Turkey. The research specifically compares hospitalisation duration and treatment completion rates before and after these activities were discontinued due to regulatory changes. **METHODS**: A total of 332 patients were analysed, divided into two groups: those hospitalised during a 5-month period with available OT activities (training period) and those without such activities (non-training period). Sociodemographic data, treatment duration, completion of the recommended inpatient treatment program (20 days), type of hospitalisation (voluntary versus compulsory hospitalisation) and scores from the Craving Scale and Treatment Motivation Questionnaire were retrospectively analysed. **RESULTS**: No significant differences were observed between groups concerning age, gender, type of addiction, Craving Scale levels, or hospitalisation type. However, patients in the training period group had significantly longer hospital stays (15.75 vs. 12.86 days; p : No significant differences were observed between groups concerning age, gender, type of addiction, Craving Scale levels, or hospitalisation type. However, patients in the training period group had significantly longer hospital stays (15.75 vs. 12.86 days; p : No significant differences were observed between groups concerning age, gender, type of addiction,

Craving Scale levels, or hospitalisation type. However, patients in the training period group had significantly longer hospital stays (15.75 vs. 12.86 days; p : No significant differences were observed between groups concerning age, gender, type of addiction, Craving Scale levels, or hospitalisation type. However, patients in the training period group had significantly longer hospital stays (15.75 vs. 12.86 days; p **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**: OT activities may reduce early discharges for alcohol and substance use disorder patients, extend inpatient treatment duration and increase the likelihood of completing the recommended program. This study highlights the potential importance of OT in enhancing patient retention and adherence to treatment protocols for substance use disorders.

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Publication Date: 2026

Journal: Drug and Alcohol Review 45(7), pp. e70281

Abstract: Introduction This study examines the impact of occupational therapy (OT) activities-such as music, painting and sports-on treatment outcomes for patients with alcohol and substance use disorder treated at the inpatient addiction treatment unit of Sakarya University Training and Research Hospital, in Turkey. The research specifically compares hospitalisation duration and treatment completion rates before and after these activities were discontinued due to regulatory changes. Methods A total of 332 patients were analysed, divided into two groups: those hospitalised during a 5-month period with available OT activities (training period) and those without such activities (non-training period). Sociodemographic data, treatment duration, completion of the recommended inpatient treatment program (20 days), type of hospitalisation (voluntary versus compulsory hospitalisation) and scores from the Craving Scale and Treatment Motivation Questionnaire were retrospectively analysed. Results No significant differences were observed between groups concerning age, gender, type of addiction, Craving Scale levels, or hospitalisation type. However, patients in the training period group had significantly longer hospital stays (15.75 vs. 12.86 days; $p < 0.005$) and higher treatment

completion rates (50.3% vs. 34.2%; p < 0.005). Though the non-training period group had higher treatment motivation scores (p < 0.05), this did not correspond to longer stays or higher completion rates. Discussion and Conclusions OT activities may reduce early discharges for alcohol and substance use disorder patients, extend inpatient treatment duration and increase the likelihood of completing the recommended program. This study highlights the potential importance of OT in enhancing patient retention and adherence to treatment protocols for substance use disorders.

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3. **Psychometric Evaluation of the Intraprofessional Collaborative Practice Survey in Entry-Level Occupational Therapy Students: A Rasch Analysis.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Fan, Chia-Wei

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 80(5), pp. 812–826

Abstract: ImportanceCollaboration between occupational therapists (OTs) and occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) supports coordinated client-centered care. Although the Intraprofessional Collaborative Practice Survey (ICPS) has been used to document progress in occupational therapy, Rasch-based psychometric evidence is limited.ObjectiveTo evaluate the ICPS psychometric properties using Rasch analysis and examine differential item functioning (DIF) between master of occupational therapy (MOT) and doctor of occupational therapy (OTD) students. DesignCross-sectional psychometric validation study. Setting Accredited occupational therapy programs across the United States. Participants In total, 444 occupational therapy students (272 MOT [mean age = 24.55 years; 7.4% male] and 172 OTD [mean age = 24.84 years; 8.7% male]). Outcomes and MeasuresIntraprofessional Collaborative Practice Survey (ICPS)-Occupational Therapist version, a 20-item survey with Perceived Importance and Perceived Ability modules across four domains: Intraprofessional Teamwork, Roles and Responsibilities for Collaborative Practice, Communication for Intraprofessional Practice, and Values and Ethics for Intraprofessional Practice. Results Unidimensionality was confirmed for the four domains within both the Perceived Importance and Perceived Ability modules. Response categories advanced monotonically, supporting appropriate functioning of the 3-point rating scale. Item fit was acceptable. Ceiling effects were observed across both modules; no floor effects were found. Item separation indicated stable item ordering. Two Perceived Importance items demonstrated meaningful DIF between MOT and OTD students. Conclusions and RelevanceThe ICPS demonstrated satisfactory construct validity, and most items functioned comparably across MOT and OTD programs. Ceiling effects in the Perceived Importance items may limit sensitivity to change at higher endorsement levels. Two DIF items warrant further examination.; plain-language-summary The ICPS measures how strongly OT students value OT-OTA collaboration and how confident they feel performing collaborative behaviors. Rasch analysis supported the quality of the measure and showed that most items functioned similarly across MOT and OTD students. Overall, the findings suggest that the ICPS is a reliable and valid tool for OT education. Language: English

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4. **Protecting the Pipeline: Faculty Burnout as a Structural Issue in Occupational Therapy Education**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Garrison, Kaylynn;DiLuzio Panetta, Danielle;Dewey, Serena;Vulcan, Dane and McManus, Leanna

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: The American Journal of Occupational Therapy : Official Publication of the American Occupational Therapy Association , pp. 19437676261497930

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5. **Occupational Data Stewardship in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: A Call for Occupational Therapy Leadership.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Ham, Pola

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 80(6), pp. 1148–1152

Abstract: Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping occupational therapy, and the literature has increasingly addressed robotics, predictive models, assessment technologies, ethics, documentation, and workforce readiness. Comparatively little attention, however, has been given to whether the occupational data underlying AI systems adequately represent occupation or support occupation-centered practice. In this article, representative occupational data are defined as data that capture occupation as it is experienced in context rather than reducing it to impairment, task performance, or service use alone. I contend that occupational therapy practitioners have a professional responsibility for occupational data stewardship by shaping how occupational data are structured, interpreted, governed, and applied across AI-supported practice, education,

and research. This work includes identifying occupation-related information, translating it into meaningful data, and critically evaluating how those data are used within AI systems. To advance occupational data stewardship, I propose four priorities: establishing minimum occupational data elements, protecting occupational data privacy, maintaining human-in-the-loop accountability, and implementing AI in ways that prioritize occupational justice and participation over efficiency.; plain-language-summary Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming more common in occupational therapy, yet less attention has been given to whether the data behind these systems meaningfully reflect people's everyday occupations and experiences. This article argues that occupational therapy practitioners should help shape how occupational data are collected, organized, interpreted, protected, and used. These data should capture what people do and experience in real-life contexts, rather than focusing only on impairments, task performance, or service use. Practitioners can support responsible AI by identifying meaningful occupation-related information and critically evaluating how AI systems use it. Four priorities are proposed: establishing basic standards for occupational data, protecting privacy, maintaining human involvement in AI-supported decisions, and ensuring that AI advances participation and occupational justice rather than efficiency alone. Language: English

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6. **Enhancing Play and Daily Activities in Autistic Children: Family-Centered Occupational Therapy in a Hospital Setting.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Hsieh, Ya-Lin;Tseng, Mei-Hui;Chiang, Fu-Mei;Huang, Wei-Tian;Lai, Wen-Hsin and Hsiao, I-Ming

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 80(5), pp. 758–770

Abstract: ImportanceFamily-centered occupational therapy (FCOT) Coaching Intervention improves child participation and parental skills, yet its use in hospital-based early intervention (EI) in Taiwan is limited.ObjectiveTo evaluate FCOT Coaching Intervention for enhancing daily participation and play in autistic children. DesignQuasi-experimental, pretest-posttest design. Setting National Taiwan University Children's Hospital. Participants Nineteen autistic children (aged 2-6) and their parents. Families self-selected into FCOT Coaching Intervention group (n = 9) or control group (n = 10) based on transportation convenience. InterventionFCOT Coaching Intervention group comprised twice-weekly, 30-min sessions over 6 months, focusing on parent coaching and family-centered goals. Controls received traditional therapy in community

clinics.Outcomes and MeasuresChild outcomes were assessed via Psychoeducational Profile-Third Edition (PEP-3), Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale (VABS), and Revised Knox Preschool Play Scale (RKPPS). Parenting stress and family outcomes were measured with Parenting Stress Index-Short Form (PSI-SF) and Family Outcomes Survey-Revised (FOS-R). Goal Attainment Scaling (GAS) assessed individualized goals in FCOT Coaching Intervention group. Results Children who received FCOT Coaching Intervention showed significant gains in adaptive behaviors (p = .021), daily living skills (p = .026), and attention during play (p = .035). GAS revealed notable progress in play and daily activity participation. Parenting stress and family outcomes showed no significant group differences. Conclusions and RelevanceFCOT Coaching Intervention effectively enhanced parts of functional participation and play in young autistic children in a hospital setting. Findings support expanding FCOT Coaching Intervention in EI and underscore the need for long-term follow-up.; plain-language-summary This study evaluated the effectiveness of FCOT Coaching Intervention for young autistic children in Taiwan. Children in the FCOT Coaching Intervention group showed greater improvements than those in the control group in daily living skills and attention during play. Parents reported increased child participation, while parenting stress and family outcomes did not differ between or within groups. These findings support FCOT as an effective approach for hospital-based EI. Language: English

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7. **Health Policy Perspectives-Realizing the Potential of Occupational Therapy in Supporting Postsecondary Student Mental Health and Success.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Hunt, Eithne;Nolan, Clodagh;Eichler, Jeanne and Keptner, Karen

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 80(5), pp. 969–977

Abstract: Postsecondary institutions around the world are grappling with how best to respond to what is described as a crisis in student mental health, with urgent calls for evidence-based advocacy, campaigning, and global action. In response to this call to action, in this article we advocate for a stronger role for occupational therapy in supporting student mental health in postsecondary settings through the enactment of the Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting University and Colleges, which celebrated its tenth anniversary in 2025. We share examples of

innovative occupational therapy services and developments from the United States and Ireland specifically addressing the growing mental health needs of postsecondary students; highlight advocacy efforts and international collaborations and offer suggestions for how occupational therapy practitioners can work to consolidate and expand this vibrant and necessary emergent practice area through the basic tenets of the Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting University and Colleges.; plain-language-summary Around the world, there are concerns about the mental wellbeing of young people. In response, schools and colleges are trying to better support student mental health. The Okanagan Charter is the International Charter for Health Promoting University and Colleges. This policy was published in 2015. It is a useful policy for occupational therapy practitioners to further develop occupational therapy services on campuses. Using this policy, the authors of this paper share examples of occupational therapy service provision from campuses in Ireland and the US. The authors also make suggestions for how occupational therapy provision on campuses can be expanded. Language: English

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8. **"I had to have a couple of days off work to get there": Stakeholder perspectives in developing an occupational therapy burns telehealth service.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Jones, Amber;Burns, Clare L.;Ward, Elizabeth C. and Mc Kittrick, Andrea

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: Burns 52(8), pp. 108137

Abstract: BACKGROUND: Telehealth models have the potential to help overcome challenges associated with the provision of in-person adult occupational therapy (OT) burn care. This study aimed to examine clinician and consumer perceptions of in-person adult burn care within a large adult burns service and explore the key features required to develop and implement an adult OT burns telehealth (OT TeleBurns) model of care. **METHODS**: Interviews were conducted with adults after burn injury (n=23), and occupational therapists providing burn care to patients at their local facilities (n=18). Data were analysed first qualitatively to identify challenges with current in-person services, then coded using the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR) 2.0, to identify barriers and facilitators for implementing an adult OT TeleBurns service. **RESULTS**: Patient travel, local clinical expertise, communication across facilities, and

patient attendance were key challenges of in-person services. CFIR constructs identified as strong facilitators for an OT TeleBurns service were the tension to change from in-person services, the relative advantage of telehealth services, and the proposed service's adaptability to the local context and ability to meet participants' needs. Perceived implementation facilitators were ensuring choice of appointment type, building local clinician capability, optimising communication methods, and establishing service governance and clear operational processes. **CONCLUSION**: Findings highlight strong support for developing an OT TeleBurns service given significant challenges with in-person care. Existing facilitators indicate high feasibility for implementation with clear clinical pathways and service procedures critical to ensuring an effective and sustainable model. Findings will be used to guide telehealth service development.

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9. **School-Based Occupational Therapy in MTSS: A Call to Action.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Leao, Marco A. and Lane, Shelly J.

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 80(6), pp. 1153–1158

Abstract: School-based occupational therapy practitioners (SBOTPs) are called to move beyond reactive services for students with identified disabilities and contribute to preventive, inclusive supports for all learners. The *Every Student Succeeds Act* and the adoption of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) create a timely opportunity for SBOTPs to expand their role as Specialized Instructional Support Personnel within school-wide systems. However, current implementation remains limited by conceptual confusion, inconsistent definitions of MTSS tiers, insufficient data collection and progress monitoring, and fragmented service delivery. These challenges restrict SBOTPs' ability to participate fully in school-wide prevention and intervention efforts and perpetuate a narrow view of occupational therapy (OT) as primarily a direct service linked to special education eligibility. This call to action argues for the development of a clearly defined, stakeholder-informed, and evidence-based model for OT practice within MTSS. It also offers recommendations for coordinated action across research, education, and practice to strengthen role clarity, professional preparation, and implementation support. Together, these efforts are essential to advancing inclusive, preventive, and educationally relevant

OT services that support participation and success for all students.

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10. **GenAI in Occupational Therapy: A Survey of Adoption, Ethical Concerns, and Training Needs.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Lockwood, Adam;Farmer, Ryan and Mansour, Tara

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 80(6), pp. 1014–1024

Abstract: ImportanceOccupational therapy practitioners are rapidly adopting generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools in clinical settings, yet little is known about current usage patterns, ethical concerns, or training needs specific to the profession.ObjectiveTo examine how occupational therapy practitioners are using GenAI in practice and explore their ethical concerns, and training needs. DesignCross-sectional survey study. Participants 277 occupational therapists; 77 occupational therapy assistants with a mean age of 40.8 years and a mean of 14.8 years of occupational therapy practical experience.Outcomes and MeasuresSelf-report questionnaire examining AI usage patterns, perceived advantages and limitations, ethical and institutional factors influencing adoption, and training preferences. Results 48.9% of participants reported using GenAI in the past 6 months, with common applications including answering work-related questions (38.7%) and generating clinical content. Primary concerns included preference for human judgment (46.2%), accuracy and reliability (45.7%), and ethical issues (38.2%). Only 6.2% reported formal institutional GenAI policies, and 94.8% never entered personally identifiable information into GenAI systems; only 12.2% obtained informed consent from clients, caregivers, or other relevant parties to use GenAI. While 68.3% believed practitioners should receive GenAI training, 42.2% reported receiving no training, with most (73.2%) desiring formal webinar-based instruction. Conclusions and RelevanceOccupational therapy practitioners reported significant GenAI use. Participants also noted substantial concerns about ethical implementation, data security, and loss of clinical skills. Findings suggest that critical gaps in formal training and institutional guidance exist. Evidence-based frameworks and structured educational initiatives to ensure GenAI integration aligns with client-centered, ethical practice standards are needed.; plain-language-summary This study examined how occupational therapy practitioners in Ohio currently use GenAI tools in their work. Survey results indicated that while many practitioners are experimenting with GenAI for tasks like writing notes and organizing information, they have serious concerns about protecting clients, caregivers, or

other relevant parties privacy and whether GenAI can truly understand the complexities of occupational therapy practice. Most had not received formal training on how to use GenAI ethically and safely. Language: English

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11. **Occupational therapists' views on the existing and potential use of multifunctional robots in dementia rehabilitation**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Maclean, Fiona;Ryan, Ciara;Hunter, Elaine;Dragone, Mauro;Paton, Lynne;Gray, Ashleigh and Porter-Armstrong, Alison

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: British Journal of Occupational Therapy , pp. 1

Abstract: Robotic technologies are increasingly considered as an approach to rehabilitation, including with people with dementia, their families, and caregivers. Currently, there is little evidence available in occupational therapy to indicate if multifunctional robots are, or could be used, including how people with lived experience are involved.This study aimed to capture occupational therapists' views on existing and potential use of multifunctional robotic technology in dementia practice and to understand if this technology has potential to support person-centred participation in occupation-led rehabilitation.A participatory research design, adopting a survey methodology, was developed. The mixed methods survey instrument was informed by the Theoretical Framework of Acceptability (TFA), with questions designed in partnership with people with lived experience, including occupational therapists in practice.Direct experience with multifunctional robots among occupational therapists who responded (*n* = 177) remains limited. Only 3.4% (*n* = 6) of respondents reported using multifunctional robots in their past or current practice. Whilst professional tensions were identified, results indicate that half of all respondents noted they would likely use a multifunctional robot if this were available.Findings indicate professional concerns regarding the adoption of robotic technology in dementia practice, but its potential benefits are nevertheless viewed as valuable.

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URL: https://research.ebsco.com/plink/adfcd5d2-86f1-31de-a10b-697629383d3e

12. **Clinical Utility of an Occupational Therapist-Led Smart Home Modification Program: A Mixed-Methods Evaluation.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Mun, Kwangtae and Kim, Junghun Aj

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 80(5), pp. 853–866

Abstract: ImportanceFor smart home modification (SHM) to translate into routine practice, clinicians need evidence that occupational therapist (OT)-led workflows are clinically useful, feasible, and scalable in community settings.ObjectiveTo evaluate the clinical utility of an OT-led SHM program and to identify implementation barriers and strategies that support adoption and sustainment in community practice. DesignSequential explanatory mixed-methods study. Setting Community-based practice settings. Participants Ten licensed OTs who implemented the SHM program in community services. Therapists' implementation experience included delivering the program to 40 community-dwelling adults with physical disabilities (effectiveness outcomes reported separately). Outcomes and MeasuresOTs rated the clinical utility of 31 program recommendations using a structured evaluation form across appropriateness, applicability, and effectiveness (9-point scale) and documented whether each recommendation was applied. Semistructured interviews were conducted to explain rating patterns and to explore implementation barriers and improvement needs. Interview data were analyzed using thematic analysis by two coders with consensus procedures and an audit trail. Mixed-methods integration mapped themes to recommendation-level ratings. Results Overall, OTs rated the recommendations as highly clinically useful across domains. Applicability was comparatively lower for budget planning and for developing/implementing automation scenarios. Interviews indicated that cost constraints and technical complexity reduced feasibility, whereas OT-led goal prioritization, partial automation, simplification of operational steps, context-based training, and caregiver-inclusive education supported adoption. Revisits were most commonly linked to predictable maintenance events (e.g., unplugged power, device resets, battery depletion), underscoring the need for platform-based self-management resources and a triage pathway separating clinical OT tasks from technical support. Conclusions and RelevanceOT-led SHM shows strong clinical utility in community practice when delivered through occupation-centered assessment, tailored training, and iterative refinement. Scalable implementation may be strengthened by feasible automation strategies, caregiver-inclusive education, and structured support pathways that reduce preventable follow-up.Article ContributionThis study provides clinically grounded evidence for the utility of a manualized, OT-led SHM workflow and offers implementation strategies (partial automation, caregiver-inclusive training, platform-based self-management with triage) to support sustainable community delivery.; plain-language-summary This study demonstrates the clinical utility of an occupational therapist-led smart home modification program for people with physical disabilities living in the community. Smart home devices-such as voice assistants, smart switches, and motorized curtains-can help people with physical disabilities manage everyday activities at home, including turning on lights, opening doors, and controlling appliances. Ten occupational therapists who delivered the program to 40 community-dwelling adults rated the program as highly useful overall, especially when devices were matched to each person's daily goals and home situation,

and when family members joined the training. The biggest challenges were budget planning and setting up automation routines. The findings provide practical implementation strategies-including partial automation, caregiver-inclusive education, and a triage pathway separating clinical from technical follow-up-that occupational therapists can use to deliver sustainable smart home services in community settings. Language: English

Access or request full text: https://libkey.io/10.1177/19437676261464098

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13. **Harm Reduction-Oriented Occupational Therapy for Substance Use Disorders: A Retrospective Cohort Study.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Murata, Yuichi;Matsumoto, Toshihiko;Yamamoto, Naomichi;Hamaguchi, Toyohiro and Ishioka, Toshiyuki

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 80(5), pp. 785–794

Abstract: ImportanceIdentifying factors associated with sustained engagement in harm reduction-oriented occupational therapy may help inform more accessible interventions for individuals with substance use disorders (SUDs). ObjectiveTo examine participant characteristics associated with sustained engagement in the Real-Life Program (RLP), a harm reduction-oriented outpatient occupational therapy program for individuals with SUDs, and to explore changes in occupational and psychosocial outcomes among participants who continued the program. DesignRetrospective cohort study. Setting Single-site outpatient occupational therapy program. Participants Fifty-five individuals with SUDs enrolled in the RLP. Participants were classified into continued (>=47% attendance) and noncontinued (<47%) groups based on the median participation rate.Outcomes and MeasuresCanadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM), Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale-Japanese version, Shitsu-Taikan-Sho Scale, and visual analog scales for craving intensity and perceived connectedness to others. Results Prior self-help group experience was significantly associated with continued participation. Older age showed a nonsignificant association. No other demographic or clinical characteristics differed significantly between groups. Among participants who continued the program, COPM Satisfaction improved significantly, whereas COPM Performance, self-esteem, alexisomia, craving intensity, and perceived connectedness did not. Conclusions and RelevancePrior self-help group experience was associated with sustained engagement in

the RLP. Among participants who continued the program, satisfaction with daily occupations improved, although the clinical significance of this change remains uncertain. The RLP may provide a feasible harm reduction-oriented occupational therapy option for individuals with SUDs who have difficulty engaging in abstinence-based treatment programs.; plain-language-summary People with substance use disorders (SUDs) often face challenges such as unemployment, health problems, and social isolation. Traditional treatment programs often emphasize abstinence, which may not be realistic for everyone. In this study, a harm reduction-oriented occupational therapy program, the Real-Life Program, was associated with continued engagement in care, and participants who remained in the program reported improved satisfaction with daily occupations. Such programs may provide a viable option for individuals who have difficulty engaging in traditional abstinence-based treatment models. Integrating individualized goal setting, peer support, and life skills training within harm reduction-oriented frameworks may support more person-centered care for individuals with SUDs; however, further research is needed. Language: English

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https://ovidsp.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&CSC=Y&NEWS=N&PAGE=fulltext&D=medl&DO=10.1177%2f19437676261464094
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14. **A new screening tool for determining occupational therapy needs in hospitalized children with cancer: a validity and reliability study.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Ozdemir, Turan Emre;Baysal Yigit, Aysenur;Davutoglu, Ceren;Kutluk, Mustafa Tezer and Sahin, Sedef

Publication Date: Sep 17 ,2026

Journal: European Journal of Pediatrics 185(10)
Abstract: Determining the occupational therapy needs of hospitalized children with cancer is important. The present study was conducted to evaluate the validity, reliability, and clinical utility of a 25-item checklist developed to quickly and accurately identify occupational therapy needs in pediatric cancer. This cross-sectional methodological study included 402 children with cancer (aged 6-17 years). Construct validity was evaluated using exploratory factor analysis with the unweighted least squares method based on a tetrachoric correlation matrix. Internal consistency reliability was assessed using Kuder-Richardson 20 (KR-20) and McDonald's Omega (omega) coefficients. Clinical utility and known-groups validity were examined via quartile analysis and the Kruskal-Wallis H test. Regarding construct validity, parallel analysis and Scree Plot evaluation confirmed a

strong unidimensional structure measuring the general occupational therapy needs construct, replacing the initial multidimensional assumptions. The checklist demonstrated excellent internal consistency (KR-20 = 0.881, omega = 0.888). Known-groups validity analysis revealed significant differences among diagnostic groups (p = 0.005). Post hoc tests indicated that the central nervous system and solid organ tumors group had significantly higher occupational therapy needs compared to the bone and soft tissue tumors group (p = 0.004). Regarding clinical utility, quartile analysis effectively classified patients into low, moderate, and high-priority triage groups. **CONCLUSION**: The 25-item checklist is a highly valid and reliable screening tool for determining the occupational therapy needs of children with cancer. Its clinical utility, reflected in its ability to rapidly classify patients into priority groups, supports its integration into busy clinical workflows. We recommend its use for rapid triaging and routine assessment in busy clinical settings. **WHAT IS KNOWN**: * Children with cancer experience functional limitations, but current assessment methods are time-consuming. * There is a lack of rapidly applicable screening tools for occupational therapy needs in intensive clinical workflows. **WHAT IS NEW**: * A 25-item checklist demonstrated evidence of validity, reliability, and a unidimensional structure as a clinical screening tool. * The tool categorizes patients into triage priority groups, which may support clinical decision making.

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15. **'Some of Them Were Created by People Who Have Never Had a Stroke': Understanding Desired Physical and Occupational Therapy Research Study Features for People With Chronic Stroke.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Schwab-Farrell, Sarah M.;Ficke, Jasmine;Pressler, Daria;Farrell, Kelly;Rose, Becca and Miller, Valerie

Publication Date: Oct ,2026

Journal: Health Expectations 29(5), pp. e70918

Abstract: BACKGROUND: People with stroke have historically had limited involvement in physical and occupational therapy research studies. Scientists and funders, rather than those most affected by the outcomes of research, largely make decisions about what studies should focus on. When research is not informed by the lived experiences of

people with disability, researchers may ask the wrong questions or make incorrect assumptions about disability. **OBJECTIVE**: The purpose of this study was to identify desired features and characteristics for physical and occupational therapy research studies, from the perspective of people with chronic stroke. **METHODS**: We completed four iterative focus group discussions with a small group of adults with chronic stroke. The group was purposively sampled to ensure a range of prior stroke research experiences and stroke-related impairments. Thematic analysis was conducted on discussion content to identify desired study features. **RESULTS**: Four major desired study features were constructed: (1) Desire for relationships; (2) Understand the purpose; (3) Capability-oriented; and (4) Focused on individual participation needs. Participants expressed a desire for physical and occupational therapy studies to focus on what they can do (rather than what they cannot do) while also embracing the heterogeneity of stroke presentation. Studies involving elements of stroke community support and an understanding of potential benefits or information about stroke are also desired. **CONCLUSION**: Collaborative research design can contribute to future research that is authentic and valuable to people with lived experience while concurrently lessening harmful disability narratives that are often unintentionally maintained by non-disabled researchers. By working with a group of adults with chronic stroke, we were able to identify valued study features that can be incorporated into future stroke research studies. **LIVED EXPERIENCE OR PUBLIC CONTRIBUTION**: Individuals with lived experience of stroke engaged in the discussions presented in this paper to collaboratively identify desired stroke study features. People with stroke were also involved in the developing interpretation of the presented data and reviewed the final version of the manuscript.

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https://ovidsp.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&CSC=Y&NEWS=N&PAGE=fulltext&D=medl&DO=10.1111%2fhex.70918
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16. **Caring About Care: The Paradox of Self-Care in Occupational Therapy.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Staller, Mario S.;Kramer, Anne and Koerner, Swen

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 80(5), pp. 963–968

Abstract: ImportanceSelf-care is increasingly promoted in occupational therapy as a response to practitioner stress, burnout, compassion fatigue, and professional exhaustion. Although self-care may support practitioner wellbeing, it may also individualize problems that are partly produced by organizational and systemic conditions. ObjectiveTo examine self-care in occupational therapy as a paradoxical extension of the care imperative and to develop a reflexive, paradox-oriented understanding of self-care practice. DesignConceptual analysis drawing on form theory and systems-theoretical observation. The analysis examines how self-care becomes observable through the distinction between self-care and non-self-care and how this distinction shapes professional expectations.Findings The paradox of self-care lies in its attempt to relieve the burden of care by extending the care imperative to practitioners themselves. Self-care supports recovery and professional sustainability, yet it may also add another layer of responsibility by requiring practitioners to care for their own capacity to care. In doing so, it can individualize exhaustion and background the organizational and systemic conditions that make self-care necessary. Self-care can therefore function both as a necessary resource and as a problem-generating solution that stabilizes stress as an expected feature of occupational therapy work. Conclusions and RelevanceA paradox-oriented understanding does not reject self-care but keeps its ambivalence visible. Occupational therapy practitioners, educators, and organizations should approach self-care not only as an individual competency but also as information about the conditions under which care work is performed. Reflexive self-care includes caring for oneself, questioning when care has become too expansive, and setting limits to the care imperative itself.; plain-language-summary Occupational therapy practitioners are often encouraged to use self-care to manage stress and exhaustion. This article argues that self-care can be helpful, but it can also create problems. It may place more responsibility on individual practitioners while drawing attention away from workplace and system-level causes of exhaustion, such as workload, staffing, productivity demands, and limited support. A more reflective approach to self-care asks not only what practitioners need to recover, but also why recovery is repeatedly necessary. This view can help practitioners, educators, and organizations use self-care without treating it as a substitute for better working conditions. Language: English

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https://ovidsp.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&CSC=Y&NEWS=N&PAGE=fulltext&D=medl&DO=10.1177%2f19437676261468684
https://libkey.io/libraries/1780/openurl?genre=article&sid=OVID:medline&id=pmid:42698314&id=doi:10.1177%2F19437676261468684&issn=0272-9490&isbn=&volume=80&issue=5&spage=963&pages=963-968&date=2026&title=American+Journal+of+Occupational+Therapy&atitle=Caring+About+Care%3A+The+Paradox+of+Self-Care+in+Occupational+Therapy.&aulast=Staller&pid=%3Cauthor%3EStaller%2C+M.+S.%3BKramer%2C+A.%3BKoerner%2C+S.%3C%2Fauthor%3E%3CAN%3E42698314%3C%2FAN%3E%3CDT%3EJournal+Article%3C%2FDT%3E

17. **Developing an at-home dementia rehabilitation intervention: An iterative qualitative codesign study.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Stephenson, Clare;Hadjimichael, Sophia;Bail, Kasia;Gibson, Diane;Isbel, Stephen;Bennett, Michelle and D'Cunha, Nathan M.

Publication Date: Oct ,2026

Journal: Australian Occupational Therapy Journal 73(5), pp. e70125

Abstract: INTRODUCTION: There is limited availability of community-based rehabilitation for people with dementia. This study explored stakeholder perspectives to inform the design of an occupational therapy-led at-home dementia rehabilitation programme. METHODS: Four co-design workshops were conducted over 6 months with 16 participants, including people with dementia, care partners and health-care professionals. Transcribed workshop discussions underwent iterative thematic analysis to inform the final intervention components and philosophical foundations. CONSUMER AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: People with dementia and their care partners discussed what an at-home dementia rehabilitation programme should entail. As consumer and community contributors, they informed programme refinements by shaping decisions about intervention content at each workshop. FINDINGS: Four themes underpinned the intervention components and philosophical foundations for the programme: (1) accessible dementia care, driven by increased community awareness; (2) person-centred care: understanding a person's unique needs, preferences and goals; (3) empowerment through community engagement and continuous support; and (4) coordinated multidisciplinary care, essential for continuity and effectiveness. Person-centred care requires tailoring individual goals within a multidisciplinary structure, with allied health assistant intervention delivery and personalised resources prepared with oversight from the occupational therapist. Stakeholders endorsed programme leadership by occupational therapists, with physiotherapy support where mobility or exercise components were required and delivery by allied health assistants under clinical supervision. CONCLUSION: Codesign workshops defined an at-home dementia rehabilitation intervention founded on occupational therapy philosophies of care, with accessibility, empowerment and a comprehensive referral and intake process as central to individualisation. Assessing the programme's feasibility and effectiveness may enable personalised care that helps people with dementia maintain independence at home. Allied health assistants may offer a cost-effective option, improving access to rehabilitation for people with dementia, as with other chronic conditions.

Copyright © 2026 The Author(s). Australian Occupational Therapy Journal published by John Wiley & Sons Australia, Ltd on behalf of Occupational Therapy Australia.; plain-language-summary Many people with dementia want to stay at home, continue everyday activities and remain connected to their communities. After diagnosis, however, people with dementia and their families often feel unsure what to do next, as the health system offers few clear pathways for support. Australian national guidelines state that people with dementia should have access to personalised care and rehabilitation, as with other health conditions. Although research shows rehabilitation works well when care partners are trained to help, not everyone has a care partner or can attend group programmes. This highlights the need for flexible, home-based options. This study asked people with dementia, care partners, health professionals and dementia advocates what would work best for a home-based dementia-specific rehabilitation programme. Participants supported occupational therapists leading the programme, with physiotherapy input and delivery by allied health assistants. There were some limitations, as six of the health professionals worked for the same health service, and the people with dementia and their care partners had all been part of a dementia rehabilitation programme, which may have influenced their opinions. Language: English

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https://ovidsp.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&CSC=Y&NEWS=N&PAGE=fulltext&D=medl&DO=10.1111%2f1440-1630.70125
https://libkey.io/libraries/1780/openurl?genre=article&sid=OVID:medline&id=pmid:42683932&id=doi:10.1111%2F1440-1630.70125&issn=0045-0766&isbn=&volume=73&issue=5&spage=e70125&pages=e70125&date=2026&title=Australian+Occupational+Therapy+Journal&atitle=Developing+an+at-home+dementia+rehabilitation+intervention%3A+An+iterative+qualitative+codesign+study.&aulast=Stephenson&pid=%3Cauthor%3EStephenson%2C+C.%3BHadjimichael%2C+S.%3BBail%2C+K.%3BGibson%2C+D.%3BIsbel%2C+S.%3BBennett%2C+M.%3BD%27Cunha%2C+N.+M.%3C%2Fauthor%3E%3CAN%3E42683932%3C%2FAN%3E%3CDT%3EJournal+Article%3C%2FDT%3E

18. **Longitudinal Associations of Driving Status and Occupational Dysfunction With Health Outcomes After Acquired Brain Injury.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Takehara, Shuto;Sotokawa, Tasuku;Tauchi, Yuta;Sakamoto, Rie;Kanata, Yoshihiro and Domen, Kazuhisa

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 80(6), pp. 1034–1044

Abstract: ImportanceDriving facilitates community involvement after acquired brain injury (ABI). While driving cessation can lower quality of life, the long-term health impacts of driving resumption, and how baseline occupational dysfunction (OD) affects them remain unclear.ObjectiveTo investigate the longitudinal associations between driving status (resumption vs. cessation) and health outcomes following ABI and determine whether baseline OD influences these associations. DesignRetrospective longitudinal cohort study using linear mixed-effects models for trajectory analysis. Setting Single inpatient and outpatient driving rehabilitation program at a Japanese medical center. Participants Sixty-two patients with ABI who completed driving assessments and follow up.Outcomes and MeasuresPhysical component summary and mental component summary (MCS) scores from the eight-item short-form health survey, Zung self-rating depression scale (SDS) scores, and life-space assessment (LSA) scores, with the baseline classification and assessment of occupational dysfunction score as the primary moderator. Results Driving resumption was significantly associated with MCS (beta = 6.409), SDS (beta = -7.310), and LSA (beta = 22.768) score improvements. These associations were most pronounced in patients with higher baseline OD (e.g., interaction beta for MCS = 0.152, p p = .01). Conclusions and RelevanceDriving resumption is associated with clinically meaningful improvements in mental health-related quality of life, depressive symptoms, and life space, particularly in patients with severe OD at baseline. These findings highlight the importance of assessing baseline OD during driving rehabilitation to understand better and support the long-term wellbeing and community participation of patients with ABI.; plain-language-summary We investigate the relationship between driving resumption and quality of life, depressive symptoms, and life space among individuals with acquired brain injury. Patients who resume driving, especially those who experienced difficulties in performing meaningful daily activities before their driving assessment, tend to show improved mental health outcomes. These findings suggest that evaluating patients' daily life challenges before they finish driving rehabilitation is important. This approach helps rehabilitation professionals better understand and support the long-term wellbeing and

community involvement of people with brain injuries. Language: English

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19. **Navigating Legal Services: A Proposed Lens for Occupational Therapy Practitioners Supporting Asylum Seekers.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Wasmuth, Sally;DeRolf, Annie;De Gante, Hannah Romero and Brenner, Leah

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 80(5), pp. 955–962

Abstract: This article provides a lens through which occupational therapy practitioners (OTPs) can support immigrants seeking asylum in the United States. We argue that navigating legal services is a critical entry point where OTPs can collaborate with asylum seekers and legal aid organizations. While existing literature addresses occupational therapy assessments and interventions for this population, few studies emphasize how OTPs can assist asylum seekers in navigating the legal system to secure rights that enable safe participation in essential occupations such as work, education, social engagement, and leisure. To address this gap, we propose three strategies: (1) building partnerships with legal aid organizations, (2) conducting ongoing needs assessments with legal organizations and asylum seekers, and (3) collaborating to provide occupation-based resources and care. Partnerships among OTPs, asylum seekers, and legal professionals foster knowledge exchange and holistic, client-centered, evidence-based support. Legal experts offer insight into structural barriers; asylum seekers contribute lived experience and personal strengths; OTPs bring expertise in promoting participation and wellbeing through meaningful activity. Recognizing that asylum seekers often face systemic obstacles to daily engagement, we position legal navigation as a critical focus for OTPs. By outlining actionable strategies, this article equips OTPs to deliver responsive, justice-oriented care tailored to asylum seekers' lived realities.; plain-language-summary People seeking asylum in the United States often live for months or years without legal protection, stable housing, or permission to work. This uncertainty makes it hard to take part in everyday activities that support health and wellbeing, such as working, going to school, caring for family, or building community connections. Occupational therapy practitioners (OTPs) are trained to support people's participation in daily life, yet their role in helping asylum seekers navigate the legal system has received little attention.This article highlights legal navigation as an important and often overlooked

area where OTPs can support asylum seekers. Access to legal services is often the gateway to safety, stability, and participation in meaningful daily activities. When people cannot navigate the legal system, they face ongoing barriers that affect their routines, roles, identity, and health.The article proposes three practical ways OTPs can help: building partnerships with legal aid organizations, regularly identifying needs alongside asylum seekers and legal teams, and using storytelling to support healing and increase understanding among healthcare providers, communities, and policymakers. These approaches recognize asylum seekers as experts in their own lives and emphasize collaboration rather than one-size-fits-all solutions.By working alongside legal professionals and asylum seekers, OTPs can help reduce barriers to daily life while promoting dignity, participation, and wellbeing. This article offers a justice-focused framework to guide occupational therapy practice that is responsive to the real-life challenges asylum seekers face as they pursue safety and belonging. *Occupational Justice is Not a Luxury. It is a Human Right*. Language: English

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20. **Implementation of Metacognitive Reflection and Insight Therapy for Occupational Therapy (MERIT-OT) to Support Veterans Receiving Occupational Therapy Mental Health Services.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Wasmuth, Sally;Randolph, Samantha;Triplett, Benjamin;Kamara, Anya;Rehling, Stephanie M.;Taylor, Allison L.;Bunch, Caitlin and Karan, Elizabeth

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 80(5), pp. 827–836

Abstract: ImportanceMetacognitive Reflection and Insight Therapy for Occupational Therapy (MERIT-OT) is a novel adaptation of an evidence-based psychotherapy model designed to enhance metacognitive capacity and support recovery. Its philosophical alignment with occupational therapy-particularly the emphasis on meaning-making and life participation-makes it a promising intervention for Veterans with serious mental illness. However, to date no implementation studies of MERIT-OT have been conducted.ObjectiveTo evaluate the implementation of MERIT-OT within a Veterans Affairs (VA) occupational therapy setting and to explore preliminary findings regarding clinical effectiveness. DesignPilot study evaluating the implementation and preliminary effectiveness of MERIT-OT when delivered by occupational therapists in a VA setting. Setting One VA Medical Center across four occupational therapy practice areas:

psychosocial rehabilitation, outpatient mental health, home health, and women's health. Participants Five occupational therapists; three implemented MERIT-OT with nine Veterans over 37 sessions.Outcomes and MeasuresImplementation outcomes were assessed using the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research when analyzing interviews and chart review data. Clinical outcomes were measured using the Metacognition Assessment Scale-Abbreviated (MAS-A). Results Facilitators included perceived relative advantage and tension for change. Barriers included competing priorities and documentation challenges. Quantitative analysis showed early gains in metacognitive mastery; other subscales showed limited change. Conclusions and RelevancePreliminary findings suggest ongoing consultation, additional training, and improved tools and resources may facilitate MERIT-OT implementation in VA outpatient mental health.What This Article AddsMERIT-OT offers a structured, recovery-oriented approach aligned with occupational therapy values and shows promise for enhancing metacognitive outcomes in mental health settings.; plain-language-summary This project looked at a new approach called MERIT-OT, which stands for Metacognitive Reflection and Insight Therapy for Occupational Therapy. It's a way for occupational therapists to help people-especially Veterans-better understand themselves and others and use that insight to improve their daily lives. MERIT-OT was originally developed for people with serious mental health conditions and has been used by psychologists. This study explored how occupational therapists in Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Centers could use it in their own work. Five therapists at one VA Medical Center took part, and three of them used MERIT-OT with nine Veterans over several sessions. The researchers wanted to know two things: (1) how easy it was for therapists to use MERIT-OT in their regular work and (2) whether it helped Veterans improve their thinking in ways that made their lives better. They found that therapists who felt MERIT-OT was useful and needed were more likely to use it. However, some therapists didn't use it because time constraints made it hard for them to review MERIT-OT trainings enough to feel comfortable with it. Some therapists also said they might have used it more with better documentation processes in place and better understanding of MERIT-OT as a whole among their co-workers. Veterans who received MERIT-OT showed early improvements in one key area: using insight to solve everyday problems. Other areas of thinking didn't show consistent changes, possibly because more time was needed. Overall, MERIT-OT seems to fit well with occupational therapy and shows promise for helping Veterans in mental health care. The study suggests that with better support and integration into daily practice, MERIT-OT could become a valuable tool for therapists working in the VA system. Language: English

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https://ovidsp.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&CSC=Y&NEWS=N&PAGE=fulltext&D=medl&DO=10.1177%2f19437676261464048
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21. **Acceptability and feasibility of the Home Support Needs Assessment in a forensic mental health service: An initial study.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Westcott, Aleksandra;Mynard, Lorrae;Pitt, Gabrielle and Darzins, Susan

Publication Date: Oct ,2026

Journal: Australian Occupational Therapy Journal 73(5), pp. e70120

Abstract: INTRODUCTION: Identifying and addressing the support needs of forensic mental health patients in daily life occupations is critical yet complex due to the health comorbidities and environmental restrictions impacting their participation. Occupational therapists support forensic patient recovery by facilitating their performance in daily life occupations required at home and in the community. Standardised assessments of daily living are important for guiding interventions. The Home Support Needs Assessment (HSNA) is a standardised measure identifying unmet support needs in daily life occupations. The aim of this study was to evaluate its initial acceptability and feasibility for occupational therapists' use in a forensic mental health setting. METHODS: An exploratory convergent, parallel mixed-methods design was used. Semi-structured interviews with five forensic occupational therapists explored their perspectives about using the HSNA in practice. Interview transcripts were analysed using reflexive thematic analysis. HSNA data were extracted from 13 patient medical records and summarised using descriptive statistics. CONSUMER AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: There was no consumer and community involvement in this research as the focus of the study was on occupational therapists. FINDINGS: Three overarching themes were generated: value of the assessment, informed care planning, and applicability to the environment. The HSNA was found to structure observations, facilitate discussions about daily life occupations, and clarify ongoing support needs. An over-support of some needs emerged as a unique factor of the forensic mental health environment. Some items were viewed as not applicable to the setting. CONCLUSION: The HSNA highlighted that the safety focus of the secure environment inadvertently limited opportunities for patients' involvement in daily life occupations. Acceptability was associated with enabling holistic occupational assessment. Further tailored training may increase overall implementability.

Copyright © 2026 The Author(s). Australian Occupational Therapy Journal published by John Wiley & Sons Australia, Ltd on behalf of Occupational Therapy Australia.; plain-language-summary People in forensic mental health services often have complex health needs and live in secure settings. These factors can make it hard for them to take part in everyday activities, such as cooking, cleaning, or managing daily routines. Occupational therapists help support recovery by working with patients to build skills for daily life at home and in the community. To plan this support well, therapists need clear ways to understand what help a person needs. This study looked at the early use of the Home Support Needs Assessment (HSNA). The HSNA is a standard tool that helps identify where a person needs support in daily activities. The aim of the study was to see if the HSNA was useful and practical for occupational therapists working in a forensic mental health setting. The study used two methods. Five forensic occupational therapists were interviewed about their experiences using the HSNA. In addition, HSNA results from the records of 13 patients were reviewed. The therapists said the HSNA helped guide their observations and made it easier to talk with patients about daily life needs. It also supported clearer care planning. However, the secure setting often led to patients being given more help than needed because of safety rules. Some parts of the HSNA did not fit well with the forensic environment. Overall, the HSNA was seen as helpful for

understanding daily living needs. Extra training may help therapists use it more effectively in this setting. Language: English

Access or request full text: https://libkey.io/10.1111/1440-1630.70120

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22. **Implementation of an Occupation-Based Practice Strategy in a Metropolitan Health Service: A Case Study.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Wort, Jennifer;Hitch, Danielle and Baxter, Chelsea

Publication Date: Jul 30 ,2026

Journal: Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy 33(1)
Abstract: BACKGROUND: Occupation-Based Practice (OBP) is fundamental to occupational therapy, enhancing consumer engagement and outcomes, yet implementation is challenging due to local environments and dominance of impairment-based interventions. **AIM**: To investigate implementation of a service-wide OBP strategy in a large metropolitan tertiary health service over 6 years; understand its influence on occupational therapists; identify barriers and facilitators; and observe changes in clinician perceptions supporting sustainability. **METHODS**: Qualitative case study at two time points. Participants were occupational therapists and allied health assistants (n = 95 in 2017; n = 39 in 2023). Data was collected through focus groups (n = 8 in 2017; n = 3 in 2023) and multiple documents. Descriptive thematic analysis identified themes and sub-themes. **RESULTS**: Strategic leadership cultivated an OBP culture. Barriers included resource limitations and systemic pressures; facilitators included interdisciplinary support and professional development. Over time, perceptions shifted from conceptual understanding to practical application as OBP became integrated into service culture. **CONCLUSION**: A service-wide OBP strategy was effectively used in practice. Implementation depended on consistent application, a supportive service culture, and responsive systems. Although COVID-19 negatively impacted OBP, commitment to the strategy supported re-establishment, demonstrating sustainability. **SIGNIFICANCE**: A service-wide OBP strategy increases OBP and can be sustained in a tertiary healthcare setting.

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Reviews

1. **The Effectiveness of Rehabilitation Interventions on Improving Leisure Participation Following Stroke: A Systematic Review.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Alves-Stein, Serena;Lannin, Natasha A.;Kramer, Sharon;Wales, Kylie and Jolliffe, Laura

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 80(5), pp. 882–897

Abstract: Objective To investigate the effectiveness of rehabilitation interventions on increasing leisure participation in adult survivors of stroke.Data SourcesDatabases (Medline, EMBASE, CINAHL, and Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials) were searched from inception to September 2025.Study Selection and Data CollectionIncluded studies were randomized and nonrandomized controlled trials investigating leisure rehabilitation for community-living adults with stroke, which include a measure of leisure participation. Data extraction was performed using a predetermined data extraction form. The PEDro Scale was used to assess the risk of bias.Findings A total of 6,813 records were retrieved, 46 were assessed at full-text review, and 8 studies were included. The meta-analysis included four studies, and another four studies were synthesized narratively. Leisure participation was higher in the intervention groups at the end of the intervention compared with the control (standardized mean difference = 0.80, 95% confidence interval 0.03 to 1.56). There was low certainty for this evidence due to the small number of studies and high heterogeneity. Subgroup analysis indicated possible benefits when intervention is provided earlier poststroke, and that leisure rehabilitation increases the number of leisure activities, but not the regularity of participation. It remains unclear whether any one intervention approach is more effective. Conclusions and RelevanceLeisure rehabilitation may improve leisure participation; however, the quality of evidence is low. Further well-designed trials are needed to address leisure participation following stroke, investigating the optimal timing of leisure rehabilitation and identifying the effective elements of the intervention.; plain-language-summary Survivors of stroke

participate in fewer leisure activities, which can reduce their quality of life. This study reviewed the research on rehabilitation interventions designed to support survivors of stroke to engage in leisure activities. This review found that leisure rehabilitation may increase the number of leisure activities people do, but they don't always make participation more regular. It was unclear whether one type of leisure rehabilitation works better than another. **Registration:** Prospective Register of Systematic Reviews (PROSPERO) ID: CRD42024547133. Language: English

Access or request full text: https://libkey.io/10.1177/19437676261464109

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https://ovidsp.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&CSC=Y&NEWS=N&PAGE=fulltext&D=medl&DO=10.1177%2f19437676261464109
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2. **Participation in Personal and Professional Roles After Young Adult Stroke: A Scoping Review**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Donnelly, M. R.;Vaughn, R. M.;Chavis, T. N.;Gass, S.;Mazan, T. and Futrowsky, J.

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 80(6), pp. 1100–1110

Abstract: ImportanceYoung adulthood is characterized by role developmental and occupational transitions; however, rehabilitation for young adult stroke survivors (YASS) is largely informed by evidence from older adults. Understanding the unique participation challenges of YASS is important for identifying tailored intervention targets.ObjectiveTo systematically map, synthesize, and identify gaps in the literature examining YASS participation.Data SourcesEBSCO search across Academic Search Ultimate, CINAHL Plus with Full Text, MEDLINE, and APA PsycInfo.Study Selection and Data CollectionPeer-reviewed studies reporting original data from YASS aged 18-45 that address participation in a role (e.g., parent, spouse), activity (e.g., education), or set of activities (e.g., activities of daily living). Data were extracted and synthesized to describe poststroke participation.Findings Fifteen studies reflected a heterogeneous evidence base. Findings suggest that stroke leads to occupational disruption with multi-layered and compounding effects on roles and activities during young adulthood. Conclusions and RelevanceStroke disrupts the life course trajectory through which roles, identities, future possibilities, and life structures are formed, negotiated, and adjusted. This review charted the limited and fragmented literature, indicating a need for evidence to inform clinical practices tailored to the distinct and evolving needs of YASS.; plain-language-summary Stroke is becoming more common in young adults, but little is known about how stroke

affects participation in important roles and occupations of young adulthood, like building relationships and developing a career. Fifteen studies examined how stroke affects young adults' participation. These studies showed that stroke disrupts not just specific roles and activities but the entire process of building an adult life, affecting personal relationships, career plans, and identity formation. Currently, stroke rehabilitation primarily focuses on motor recovery, self-care, and mobility, but may not address the unique and changing needs of young adults as they form their adult life. The findings of this review suggest that rehabilitation for young adult stroke survivors should address developmentally important roles like intimate relationships, parenting, education, and career development. More research is needed to guide care tailored to young adult stroke survivors' unique needs. Language: English

Access or request full text: https://libkey.io/10.1177/19437676261478051

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3. **Occupational Therapy Interventions in Down Syndrome: A Scoping Review.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Long, Katherine L.;Barrios Lago, Mario Sergio and Nelson, Eliza L.

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 80(5), pp. 898–907

Abstract: ImportanceIndividuals with Down syndrome experience multiple conditions requiring occupational therapy intervention, but no review papers have explored the research literature to support such intervention.ObjectiveTo map the literature on occupational therapy interventions for individuals with Down syndrome across the lifespan and identify gaps in the evidence base for future research and education that require attention.Data SourcesSix databases were searched: OTSeeker, PubMed, PsychINFO, PEDro, CINAHL, and Cochrane Library for studies published on or before June 19, 2025.Study Selection and Data CollectionThis review was conducted according to PRISMA-ScR and Joanna Briggs Institute methodology for scoping reviews. Included studies had participants with Down syndrome, were published in English, contained an OT intervention, and were peer-reviewed. Excluded studies lacked participants with Down syndrome, were not in English, did not have an OT intervention, or were not peer-reviewed.Findings We retrieved 421 records and included 21 articles in this review. While most studies utilized rigorous designs (n = 16), none were designated "High Quality" due to multiple methodological flaws, such as failure to assess treatment fidelity or lack of random assignment to condition. Conclusions and RelevanceThis review suggests a

need for studies with more methodological rigor, that address adults with Down syndrome, and that detail a greater variety of interventions. Practitioners and scholars should emphasize data-driven decision making, implementation of practice guidelines for Down syndrome, and the promotion of continuing education opportunities on Down syndrome.; plain-language-summary Although people with Down syndrome receive occupational therapy almost from birth, therapists often do not receive training on how to address the specific needs of individuals with Down syndrome. Families of individuals with Down syndrome have expressed a desire for research specific to Down syndrome, including occupational therapy research, to inform treatment. This study summarizes the existing research on occupational therapy interventions for people with Down syndrome across the lifespan and identifies areas of need for future research and practice. This study supports efforts to ensure that clients with Down syndrome receive the highest-quality care from informed providers. Future studies should target interventions for adults with Down syndrome and should include a broader variety of interventions to better reflect the scope of occupational therapy practice. Language: English

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4. **Staying Afloat: A Scoping Review of the Literature on Adapted Swim Instruction.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Long, Katherine L.;Kobza, Kristina;Perez, Tania Santiago;Kemp, Erika and Carson, Tana B.

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 80(5), pp. 930–954

Abstract: ImportanceIndividuals with disabilities may require adaptations and modifications during swimming instruction.ObjectiveThe purpose of this scoping review is to summarize the literature on adapted swim instruction including the following: (1) identifying adapted swim strategies; (2) determining which populations have received adapted swim instruction; and (3) identifying gaps in the research.Data SourcesSix databases were searched for records published on or before September 29, 2025, including: PubMed, Excerpta Medica Database (EMBASE), Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL), SportDiscus, Web of Science, and Education Resources Information Center (ERIC). Study Selection and Data CollectionStudies were included in this review if they were peer-reviewed, written in English, focused on beginner swimming skill instruction, included participants with disabilities and/or instructors/caregivers of individuals with disabilities, and consisted of original research

studies. Studies were excluded if they were not peer-reviewed, not written in English, or not focused on beginning swim instruction.Findings Fifty-five studies met inclusion criteria and described interventions for individuals with disabilities. Studies discussed 26 adaptive strategies utilized for swimming instruction. Two studies were Oxford Level 2 studies, indicating randomized-controlled trials and definitive observational studies. Conclusions and RelevanceThere is a lack of robust, high-quality studies on adapted swim instruction, indicating a need for future studies to strengthen the evidence base.; plain-language-summary Drowning is one of the leading causes of death for children ages 0 to 4, and individuals with disabilities are at an even higher risk of death by drowning. Swim lessons are an important tool for drowning prevention but may not be tailored to support the needs of people with disabilities. Adapted swim instruction is an emerging clinical practice area for occupational therapists and other rehabilitation professionals to partner with disabled individuals and their families to support independence in swimming. This review paper describes the literature to date on adapted swim instruction strategies and describes gaps in the literature for clinicians and researchers to address. This article advocates for broader accessibility of adapted swim instruction for people with a variety of disabilities to increase their safety in home and community settings. Future research should utilize rigorous study designs such as randomized controlled trials to strengthen the literature on this important topic. Language: English

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5. **The effectiveness of occupational therapy recommended housing adaptations on activities of daily living and quality of life for community-dwelling adults and their caregivers: A mixed-methods review**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: McElvaney, Elaine and Turtle, Beverley

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: British Journal of Occupational Therapy , pp. 1

Abstract: Occupational therapists routinely recommend housing adaptations for community-dwelling adults to overcome environmental barriers. However, little is known about the effectiveness of occupational therapy housing adaptations and the views of adults who receive them and their caregivers.A mixed-methods systematic review of studies completed with adults who received occupational therapy-recommended housing adaptations was completed across Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature Ultimate, Ovid Medline and Scopus databases from 2013 to March 2026. The

Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool assessed the quality of each study, and the Joanna Briggs Institute convergent integrated approach was used to synthesise quantitative and qualitative data.Eight studies were included. Evidence suggests provision of occupational therapy housing adaptations was linked to enhanced independence, quality of life, physical and mental/emotional well-being, safety, freedom, control over the future and valued occupations/roles for community-dwelling adults, as well as ease of caregiving and improved emotional and physical health for the caregivers.Evidence suggests the provision of housing adaptations by occupational therapists improves independence and quality of life for community-dwelling adults and caregivers. This review emphasises the importance of client-centredness and shared decision-making in the provision of housing adaptations.

Access or request full text: https://libkey.io/10.1177/03080226261490817

URL: https://research.ebsco.com/plink/02175fa1-d184-3e32-bd8a-f95ed13e2db5

6. **Acceptance and Commitment Therapy in Occupational Therapy: A Scoping Review.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Rider, John V.;LaVerdure, Abigail E. and Fox, Jackie

Publication Date: 2026

Journal: American Journal of Occupational Therapy 80(5), pp. 867–881

Abstract: ImportanceAcceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) emphasizes psychological flexibility and engagement in valued activities, aligning with occupational therapy's focus on participation. However, the published literature describing occupational therapy practitioners' use of ACT has not been synthesized.ObjectiveTo map the existing literature describing occupational therapy practitioners' use of ACT, including its use in evaluation and intervention, client concerns addressed, practice settings, and reported outcomes.Data SourcesA comprehensive search was conducted across PubMed, Embase, Scopus, CINAHL, PsycINFO, OTSeeker, OTDBase, SciELO, ProQuest Dissertations and Theses, MedNar, and Google Scholar from 1982 through 2025.Study Selection and Data CollectionThis scoping review followed Joanna Briggs Institute methodology and PRISMA-ScR guidelines. Studies were included if they described the use of ACT by occupational therapy practitioners. Two reviewers independently screened and extracted data using a standardized tool.Findings Twenty-five sources were included, primarily involving adults with chronic pain in interdisciplinary rehabilitation settings. ACT was most often used within intervention, with limited description of its role in evaluation. Outcomes predominantly reflected improvements in psychological flexibility, acceptance, emotional distress, and participation. Occupation-specific outcomes were infrequently reported, and occupational therapy-specific contributions were often unclear within interdisciplinary models. Conclusions and RelevanceAcross the included studies, ACT was reported to be used by occupational therapy practitioners within intervention approaches, particularly in chronic pain and mental health contexts. However, its application remains inconsistently articulated in occupation-based evaluation and outcomes. Greater clarity in occupational therapy-specific implementation and measurement is needed to advance ACT as an occupation-centered approach.; plain-language-summary This study reviewed published research describing how occupational therapy practitioners use Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), an approach that helps people stay engaged in meaningful activities despite difficult thoughts, emotions, or

symptoms. The reviewed studies most often described occupational therapy practitioners using ACT during treatment with people experiencing chronic pain or mental health challenges, frequently within team-based care. Reported outcomes included improvements in psychological flexibility, emotional wellbeing, and participation in daily life. However, most studies focused more on psychological outcomes than on changes in everyday activities or roles. In many studies, it was also unclear what role occupational therapists played within the healthcare team. These findings suggest that ACT aligns well with occupational therapy's focus on meaningful participation, but its application and outcomes are not yet clearly defined in published research. Future research may help clarify how occupational therapy practitioners use ACT to support participation in daily life. Language: English

Access or request full text: https://libkey.io/10.1177/19437676261464099

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https://ovidsp.ovid.com/ovidweb.cgi?T=JS&CSC=Y&NEWS=N&PAGE=fulltext&D=medl&DO=10.1177%2f19437676261464099
https://libkey.io/libraries/1780/openurl?genre=article&sid=OVID:medline&id=pmid:42698315&id=doi:10.1177%2F19437676261464099&issn=0272-9490&isbn=&volume=80&issue=5&spage=867&pages=867-881&date=2026&title=American+Journal+of+Occupational+Therapy&atitle=Acceptance+and+Commitment+Therapy+in+Occupational+Therapy%3A+A+Scoping+Review.&aulast=Rider&pid=%3Cauthor%3ERider%2C+J.+V.%3BLaVerdure%2C+A.+E.%3BFox%2C+J.%3C%2Fauthor%3E%3CAN%3E42698315%3C%2FAN%3E%3CDT%3EScoping+Review%3C%2FDT%3E

7. **Effects of the Cognitive Orientation to Daily Occupational Performance approach on occupational performance and related outcomes in children with disabilities: A systematic review and meta-analysis.**

Item Type: Journal Article

Authors: Zengin Yazici, Gulsah;Yildirim, Kardelen and Tanriverdi, Muberra

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Abstract: BACKGROUND: The Cognitive Orientation to Daily Occupational Performance (CO-OP) approach is a cognitive strategy-based, occupation-focussed intervention designed to improve functional performance in children with neurodevelopmental conditions. Although CO-OP has been increasingly used in paediatric rehabilitation, evidence from randomised controlled trials examining its effectiveness across different populations and outcomes has not been comprehensively synthesised. This systematic review and meta-analysis examined the effects of CO-OP on occupational performance and related outcomes in children with disabilities. METHOD: Randomised controlled trials involving children aged 3-18 years were identified through PubMed, Scopus, and CENTRAL. Seventeen eligible reports representing 13 distinct trial cohorts were included. Risk of bias was assessed using RoB 2. Where clinically appropriate, COPM Performance and Satisfaction outcomes were synthesised using random-effects meta-analysis; other outcomes were synthesised using a SWiM-informed approach. Certainty of evidence was assessed using GRADE. CONSUMER AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: There was no consumer or community involvement in the conduct of

this systematic review. RESULTS: In five trials comparing CO-OP with active alternative interventions, meta-analysis did not demonstrate clear superiority for COPM Performance (MD = 1.03, 95% CI [-0.38, 2.44], I2 = 77.7%) or Satisfaction (MD = 1.53, 95% CI [-0.13, 3.19], I2 = 75.1%); certainty was very low. Low-certainty evidence from inactive/waitlist comparisons and trials adding CO-OP to background rehabilitation suggested improvements in individualised occupational performance. Evidence for generalised motor capacity, functional status, broader participation-related outcomes, and executive functioning was limited or inconsistent. Neuroimaging findings were exploratory. CONCLUSION: CO-OP may improve individualised, goal-oriented occupational performance compared with inactive controls or when added to background rehabilitation. However, current evidence does not establish clear superiority over other active interventions. Further adequately powered trials examining participation, generalisation, and longer term outcomes are needed.

Copyright © 2026 Occupational Therapy Australia.; plain-language-summary Children with disabilities may experience difficulties with everyday activities such as dressing, writing, playing, and taking part in school or family life. The Cognitive Orientation to Daily Occupational Performance (CO-OP) approach helps children work toward personally meaningful goals using a problem-solving strategy called Goal-Plan-Do-Check. We reviewed 17 published reports representing 13 separate trial groups. CO-OP appeared to help children improve activities they personally wanted to learn, particularly when compared with a waitlist or when CO-OP was added to usual rehabilitation. However, when CO-OP was compared with other active rehabilitation approaches, it was not clearly better overall. Evidence for improvements in general motor skills, broader participation, functional independence, and executive functioning was less certain. The available studies were generally small and differed in the children included, treatments provided, and outcomes measured. Overall, CO-OP may be a useful option for supporting child-selected occupational goals, but more research is needed to determine whether it is better than other active treatments and whether improvements transfer to everyday participation and last over time. Language: English

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