

**Review of Location of Occupational Therapy Intervention for Clients with a Stroke Diagnosis**

Kathlyn Reed, Tenesha Bryant

*Texas Woman's University, Houston, Texas, United States*

**INTRODUCTION.** Stroke is the most widely studied disorder in which occupational therapists have participated as investigators in randomized controlled trial (RCT) studies. This literature review study examined articles on stroke that used the RCT research design to explore three locations (settings) for occupational therapy intervention following a stroke: acute inpatient service, post acute rehabilitation, and home or community program. RCT studies were selected because the RCT methodology is favored in analysis for evidence based practice. **OBJECTIVES.** To compare and contrast the reported results of published studies on stroke rehabilitation in which occupational therapy was part of the rehabilitation, to document results (goals, outcomes) obtained and to determine which location is most effective in obtaining what results. **METHODS.** Journal articles published in English were identified from bibliographic and full-text databases in which occupational therapy was involved to treat a person who had had a stroke. For convenience ten articles for each location was selected for analysis. **RESULTS.** The studies did not show a difference in the goals or outcomes expected or obtained in the three difference locations. Neither the analysis of the intervention techniques not the goals/outcomes listed differed between the three locations. However the analysis of techniques was limited by the lack of specificity of the intervention model or techniques in the articles. **CONCLUSIONS.** Occupational therapists do not appear to have different expectations or performance criteria for persons who have had a stroke based on the type of location for intervention. Typical responses suggest that the biomechanical and general rehabilitation models are used most frequently in research studies. Criteria other than occupational therapy services appear to determine location of service such as medical status, prevailing care criteria in the country, or nursing care needs. **CONTRIBUTION TO PRACTICE.** As evidence based practice becomes a more important criterion in medical and political decision making, the location of service becomes a more important issue for occupational therapists to consider. Occupational therapists need to know in what location occupational therapy services can have the greatest impact on specific goals and outcomes. At present a limited amount of data is available on which to make such decisions.