Family Training for the Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Patients: Maximizing ADL Safety for Discharge from Acute/Trauma Hospital

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Introduction: Family training in ADL, and education on the implications of brain and/or spinal cord injury is an integral part of safe discharge planning for the occupational therapy profession. Today, our OT profession is challenged by psychosocial and economic issues as well as the diverse cultural background of our patients.

Objectives: To share the experience with assessment and treatment strategies in providing efficient family training to ensure safe discharge within an interdisciplinary team.

Description/Report: Samples of weekly interdisciplinary complex discharge communication form, family educational handouts, Rancho Los Amigos scale, and caregiver training checklist will be used in the poster presentation.

Results/Discussion: The completion of family training with occupational therapy, enables caregiver(s) to be safe and competent in caregiving and for the patient to continue the pathway to recovery to the highest level of function.

Conclusion: Family training is becoming increasingly imperative in the practice of occupational therapy for safe discharge home from the acute/trauma hospital setting with limited psychosocial and economic resources.

Contribution to the practice/evidence base of occupational therapy: Family training increases caregivers' knowledge of the progression of brain and spinal cord injury (as related to the patient's occupation). Family training allows caregivers to demonstrate knowledge of ADL techniques in a safe and structured setting. Family training provides a safer discharge for the caregiver(s) and the patient within their cultural, psychosocial and economic environment.