

The development of a Family Quality of Life tool directing family centred Occupational Therapy for forensic mental health care users and their families: A Master's dissertation

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Introduction/Rationale: Community reintegration and deinstitutionalisation of mental health care users (MHCUs) is central to rehabilitation efforts by a forensic psychiatric institution's multi-disciplinary team. A key outcome for success is family reunification and empowered families or social environments. The author identifies a paucity in literature pertaining to family centred occupational therapy services rendered to MHCUs and their families, and the need for family centred OT intervention. This presentation, based on the author's Masters Dissertation, introduces a Family Quality of Life (FQOL) tool developed by the OT researcher to direct OT practice for MHCUs and their families. The research process used to operationalise the FQOL concept (using an OT Practice Framework) is reviewed.

Objectives: The aim of the study was to develop a FQOL measurement tool that could direct family centred OT for MHCUs and their families from a forensic psychiatric hospital in Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa.

Method: The two phases of the sequential exploratory mixed methods study is described. It consisted of an initial qualitative item generation phase for tool development (using traditional focus groups), followed by a quantification- judgement phase (using an asynchronous online focus group) in the validation of the list of generated FQOL domains and their related measurable indicators for OT practice.

Results: Operationally defined and validated FQOL domains and their related measurable indicators included in the FQOL measurement tool will be discussed.

Conclusion: The development of the FQOL tool for OT practice highlights the opportunity and critical role of OTs in family centred mental health care services.