

Improving Occupational Participation in Emergency Department (ED) Patients and Decreasing Hospital Re-Admissions

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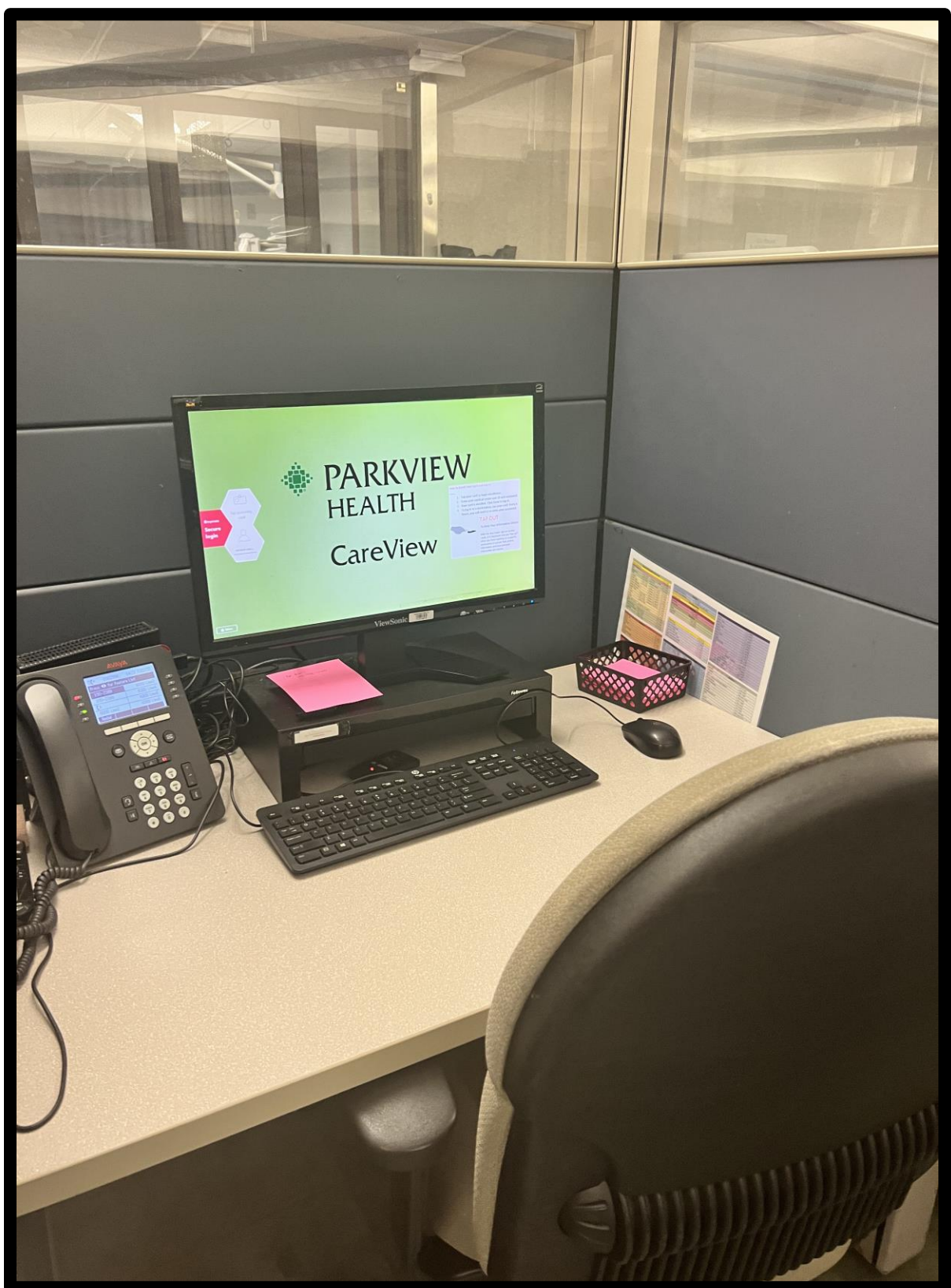
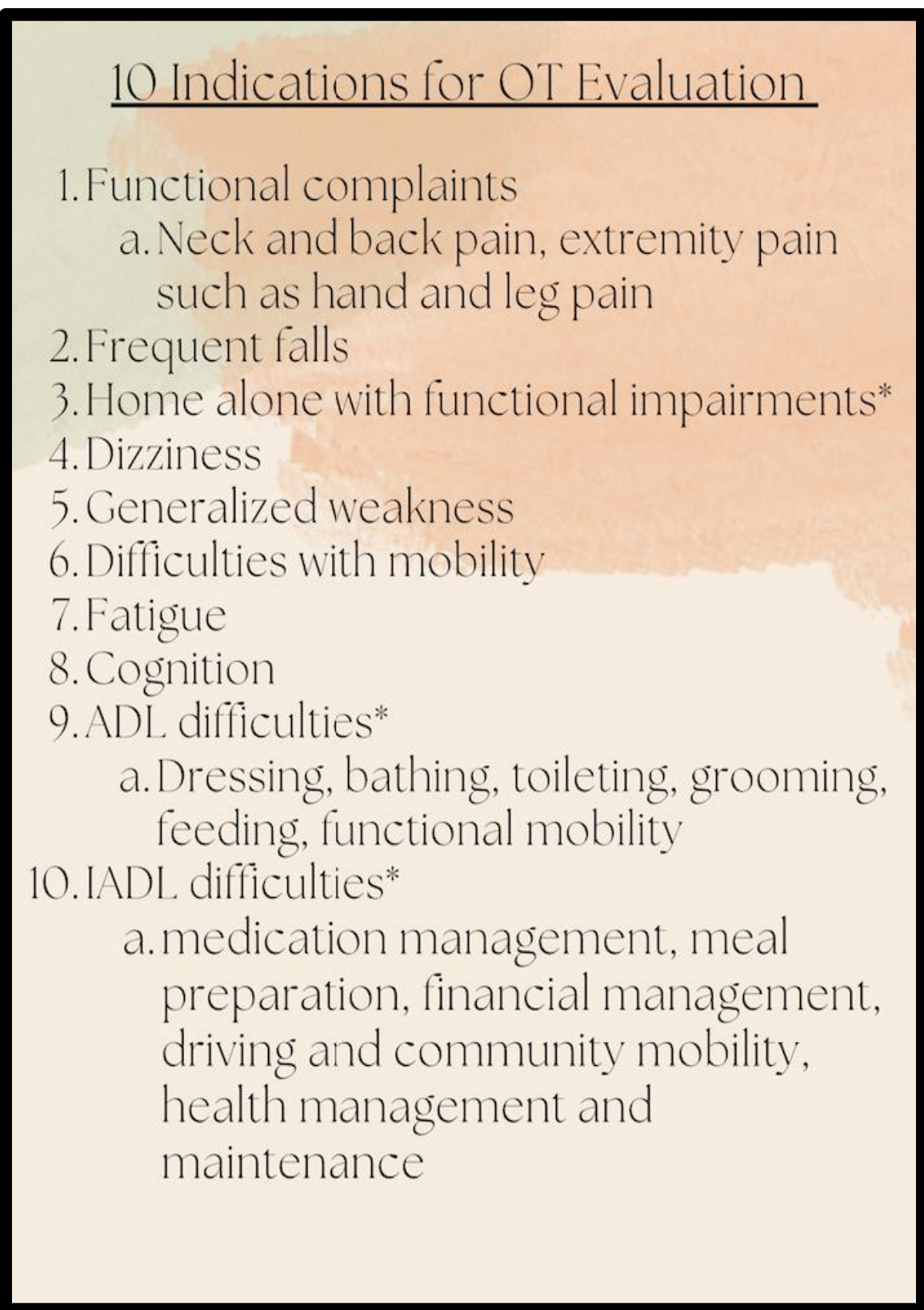
Project Description & Sites

Area of study: 1) Research 2) Program and Policy Development 3) Advocacy

Population: Emergency Department patients

Site: Parkview Hospital Randallia

Description: My doctoral capstone project aims to determine whether the inclusion of occupational therapy services in the ED has the potential to decrease re-admission rates.



Project Completion and Outcomes

- Outcome Measure #1:** In order to develop skills in advocacy within the Emergency Department, the student will design a job scope review for Occupational Therapy to further support the profession's role in improving occupational participation in emergency room patients.
- Outcome Measure #2:** In order to develop advocacy skills within the emergency department, the student will conduct at least one presentations to various emergency personnel and ER interdisciplinary members, to emphasize and highlight the benefits of skilled occupational therapy services in the emergency department, and when to refer.

Mission & Vision Statements

- Mission:** To enhance awareness of the benefits of Occupational Therapy services within the emergency department, and to serve and promote occupational participation in emergency room patients, decreasing hospital re-admissions.
- Vision:** To provide emergency room patients a holistic approach to health and wellness that facilitates occupational participation, decreasing hospital re-admission and improving care quality.

Deliverables

- Deliverable #1: OT Job Scope Review
- Deliverable #2: 5 Assessments/Intervention
- Deliverable #3: Expanded OT assessment doc
- Deliverable #4: Two PPT presentations
- Deliverable #5: Pre/Post-test on presentations
- Deliverable #6: OT profile applicable to ED
- Deliverable #7: 2 additional questions -Profile
- Deliverable #8: Final Research manuscript
- Deliverable #9: Methods to research

Needs Assessment | Literature Review

- OT services are available in emergency departments abroad, however have limited to no presence in emergency departments in the United States**
- Over 50% of older adults with limb, rib, or back trauma are discharged from the emergency department unable to perform basic activities of daily living**
- Health policy researchers found occupational therapy to be the only spending category that reduces hospital re-admissions**
- Functional impairment has been shown to be a huge predictor of an increased risk of 30-day all-cause hospital readmissions**
- 20% of Medicare patients are historically readmitted within 30 days of discharge, and 75% of re-admissions are considered preventable**
- Reducing these preventable readmissions can save the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services approximately \$12 billion annually**

Christ | Scholarship | Service

”Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good, acceptable and perfect”

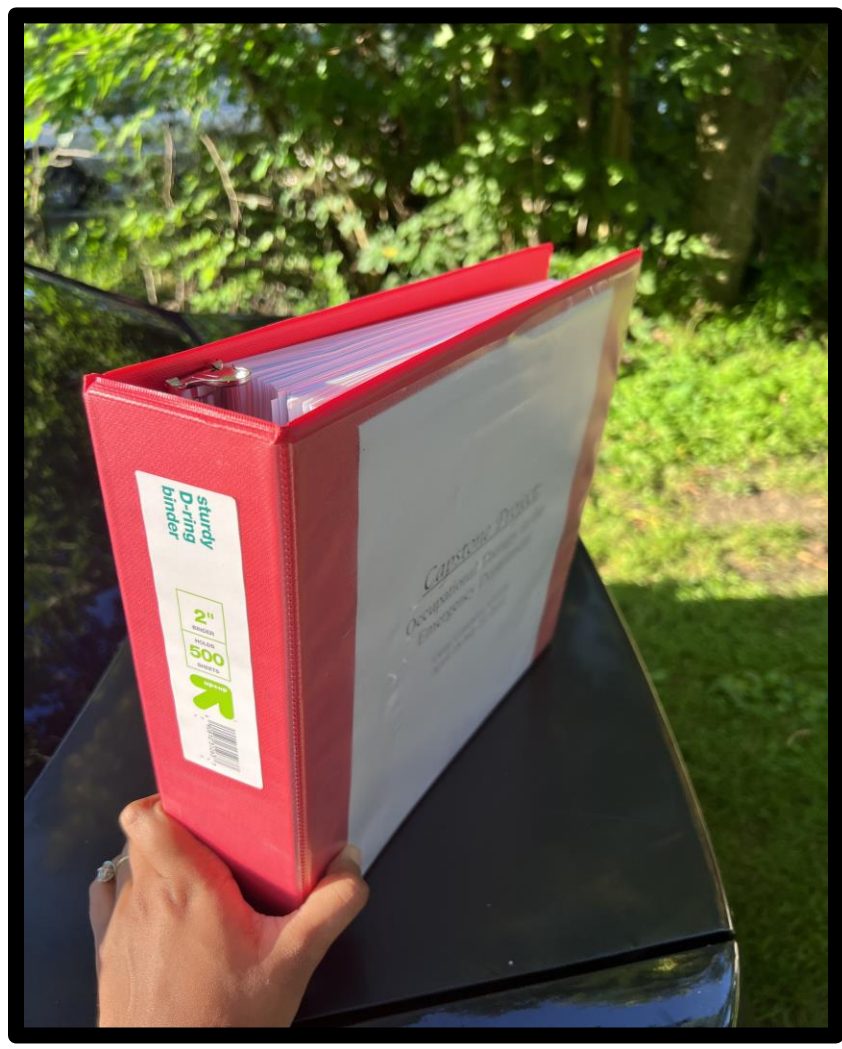
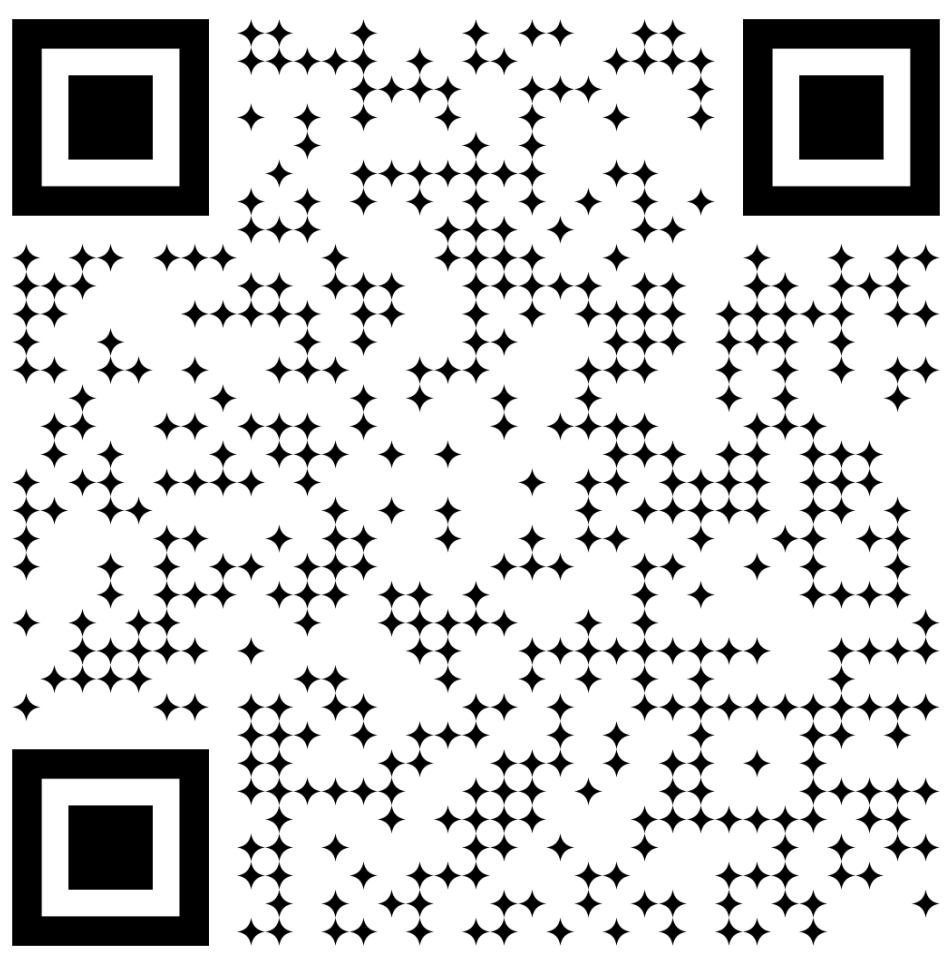
Romans 12:2

Methods/Results/Conclusion

Methods: A retrospective chart review study was conducted to analyze data from patients who received skilled occupational therapy services prior to discharge from the Emergency Department (ED). Records were identified from April 1, 2022 to June 22, 2022. Data and re-admission rates were compared with patients in the ED who did not receive OT services prior to ED discharge during these dates, displaying similar symptoms and conditions. 2x2 contingency table Chi-square test was performed to determine statistical significance of readmissions between the two groups.

Results: Out of 100 occupational therapy evaluations retrospectively identified via chart review in ED patients, seven (7%) of patients were readmitted. Out of 100 comparable patients retrospectively identified in ED charts that did not receive OT services prior to ED discharge, 24 (24%) patients were readmitted within 30 days of ED discharge. Utilizing 2x2 contingency table Chi-square test, Chi-square statistic is 11.03, p-value 0.00089, making the study significant at $p < .05$.

Conclusion: Inclusion of occupational therapy services in the emergency department decreases readmission rates. OT practitioners demonstrate an essential role in this setting by providing evaluations to assess unmet functional needs prior to ED discharge. Assisting to AD, DME and referrals to additional therapeutic services or health/community services, OT is an important member in emergency departments in the United States.



Future Implications for OT

- Future research publication
- Increased OT scope of practice/ push for more OT in the ED in the USA to assess discharging ED patients
- Continue ED-OT advocacy after graduation to expand OT contributions into EDs around the United States.
- Student can be contacted: gonzalezg1@huntington.edu

KEY REFERENCES Full reference list and image reference list available upon request
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Hendrisen, H., & Harrison, R. A. (2001). Occupational therapy in accident and Emergency departments: a randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Advanced Nursing* (Wiley-Blackwell), 36(6), 727–732. <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1365-2648.2001.02038.x>
Rogers, A. T., Bai, G., Lavin, R. A., & Anderson, G. F. (2016). Higher hospital spending on occupational therapy is associated with lower readmission rates. *Medical Care Research and Review*, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077558716666981>
Greysen, S. R., Stijacic Cenzer, I., Auerbach, A. D., & Covinsky, K. E. (2015). Functional impairment and hospital readmission in Medicare seniors. *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 175(4), 559–565. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2014.7756>