



**Service Priorities and Programmes**  
**Electronic Presentations**

**Convention ID:** 928

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**Modernizing vocational rehabilitation for people with severe mental illness: a systematic review on augmentations to conventional supported employment services**

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**Keywords:**

Vocational Rehabilitation

Supported Employment

Occupational Therapy

Severe Mental Illness

Systematic Review

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**Introduction**

In recent decades, substantial research evidences confirmed the effectiveness of supported employment (SE), which outperforms other vocational rehabilitation (VR) approaches in helping people with severe mental illness to achieve vocational outcomes. However, updated reviews suggested that a certain amount of patients still cannot benefit from such service model, indicating that there is room for further improvement.

**Objectives**

To find out possible augmentations to conventional SE services and to verify their empirical effectiveness through systematic review

**Methodology**

Keywords search was performed in PsylInfo, Medline and CINAHL to look for potential articles. Abstracts were reviewed to screen for suitable journal articles which were i) published within 2000 to 2012, ii) in English Language, iii) with full text accessibility, and iv) reports of quantitative study which evaluates the effectiveness of augmented SE programmes. Only interventions which were out of the scope of conventional SE mentioned by Bond in 1998 were identified as “augmentations”. All the selected articles were subjected to systematic review based on the guideline developed by the McMaster University Occupational Therapy Evidence-based Practice Research Group. This review was study-based, i.e. articles reporting or updating the same study were aggregated together as a single case for review. Only studies using experimental design were included. Shared vocational outcomes were aggregated for further analysis.

**Result**

354 articles (excluding duplications) were preliminarily found in electronic databases. Eventually, 12 RCT studies (reported in 14 articles) were selected. Possible augmentations included neuro-cognitive training (5 studies), work-related skills training (3 studies), CBT intervention (2 studies), additional incentives (1 study) and Assertive Community Treatment approach (1 study). All augmentations brought about some further enhancement in vocational outcomes. Neuro-cognitive training increased participants' chance of being employed (3 out of 4 studies), helped them sustain in their jobs (3 out of 4 studies), and eventually participants could earn more money (2 out of 2 studies). Work-related social skills training had similar effect as neuro-cognitive training, but it was only shown in one study i.e. more researches would be required. Participants, who received other workplace skills training or CBT intervention, seemed to have longer work tenure, but it lacked consistent statistical support. Additional incentives effectively motivated participants' job-seeking behaviors. ACT were statistically justified as a effective augmentation to SE program in rural area. Above findings justified current local practice, which EBP SE services should be supplemented with other interventions, in order to bring about more benefit to service users.