



Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

Convention ID: 1128

Submitting author: Mr Lik Hang, Gary Wong

Post title: Occupational Therapist I, Castle Peak Hospital, NULL

A pilot study on the validity of predictors on vocational outcome at discharge among inpatients with severe mental illness (SMI): a retrospective observational study

*Wong LH(1), Lee CH(1), Law KMC(1), Huang CF(1), Cheah KM(1), Yuen MC(1)
Occupational Therapy Department, Castle Peak Hospital*

Keywords:

Psychiatry

Vocational Rehab

Occupational Therapy

Introduction

To improve the efficiency in psychiatric vocational rehabilitation, it is imperative if patients' vocational potential can be determined at the beginning of rehabilitation, so that corresponding service can be rendered as soon as possible. With reference to multiple systematic reviews about possible predictors for patients' vocational functioning, a triage program was designed and launched in Occupational Therapy Department of Castle Peak Hospital since January 2015.

Objectives

To evaluate the validity of various predictors by investigating their associations with patients' vocational outcome at discharge

Methodology

Since January 2015, multiple assessments were conducted with every patient who started vocational rehabilitation in Main OT unit. Clinical data was retrieved from department electronic databases. Inpatients who were i) diagnosed with SMI, and ii) received vocational training since January 2015 were included in the analysis. The vocational status at discharge was regarded as the primary outcome variable. Personal backgrounds, clinical information, work behaviors, cognitive function, and specific work skills were regarded as possible predictors. The associations between the categorical outcome variable and categorical predictor variables were verified with Chi Square statistic. The associations between categorical outcome variable and continuous predictor variables were verified with independent T-test. Variables with p-value less than 0.05 were regarded as valid predictors.

Result

Totally 137 patients (60.6% male, 39.4% female) were analyzed in this study. 25% of them showed improvement in vocational outcome at discharge. 12.5% of patients showed decline in vocational status at discharge. No personal background and clinical information at intake were found significantly associated with the primary outcome. Therapists' recommendation after assessments ($p = 0.016$), performance in

multi-level sorting test ($p = 0.041$) and simulated assembly test ($p = 0.039$) were found significantly associated with vocational outcome at discharge. It suggested that comprehensive work assessment at the beginning of vocational rehabilitation was valid and effective in predicting vocational outcome at discharge. There were several limitations in this pilot study, such as retrospective design, small sample size, and utility of the vocational outcomes at discharge. Recommendations for further study include adopting a prospective design, addressing the multicollinearity among predictors and enhancing the utility of prediction by measuring vocational outcomes at multiple follow-up timeslots.