What is the relationship between Allen’s Cognitive Level Screen and functioning of adults living with a mental illness?

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Introduction

People living with serious mental illnesses often experience difficulties with aspects of functioning. Occupational therapist are centrally involved in enabling function. Measuring cognition supports this aim and the Allen’s Cognitive Level Screen (ACLS) is one tool to do so. Research involving the ACLS use in mental health practise has been available for over 40 years, yet there has been no comprehensive synthesis and review of this body of literature.

Objectives

To review, summarise, compare and evaluate existing literature regarding the relationship between the ACLS, functional performance and adaptive functional performance for adults living with mental illness.

Methods/Approach

A five-stage scoping review methodology was used to examine peer-reviewed literature reporting on the relationship between ACLS scores and performance for adults with mental illness. Information from 15 included studies were charted, collated, and numerically and thematically summarised.

Results/Practise Implications

A positive relationship between ACLS scores and “in the moment” performance was consistently reported. However, the relationship with community living performance requiring an ability to adapt performance was less consistent. Methods of assessing performance; complexity of tasks assessed and timing of assessments impacted on the strength of relationship. Gaps in the literature were identified.

Conclusion

Findings raise questions about how, why and when occupational therapist use the ACLS. Increased examination of what aspects of performance and functional cognition reliability determines people’s ability to live successfully in the community is needed.
The Hyperacute Occupational Therapy Team; Changing times for changing needs
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Introduction: The impacts of caring for someone with an eating disorder have been well documented in the literature. Carers play a significant role in the treatment and recovery of their loved one and often provide full-time care in the home environment for a prolonged period whilst meeting the demands of pre-existing roles in their daily life.

Objectives: This study aimed to identify internal and external factors influencing carers’ ability to support a loved one with an eating disorder using the Person-Environment-Occupation-Performance (PEOP) model.

Methods. This phenomenological study included twelve mothers, aged 35 to 60 years old, who participated in semi-structured interviews. Data saturation was reached and data were analysed thematically.

Results: Internal factors identified by participants were psychological (grief, fear, and trauma,) and cognitive (demands related to organising, planning and scheduling of daily meals). External factors identified were social (isolation and stigma), financial (increase cost for food and treatment), environmental (built environment, location of treatment, doing FBT at home) and organisational (eating disorders services and schools’ rules and demands).

Conclusion: Results from this study provided guidance for the development of interventions targeting factors that strengthen carers’ ability to support someone with an eating disorder while avoiding those factors that inhibit carers’ ability. Framing this study within the PEOP gave it a unique occupational therapy focus, which is uncommon in the field of eating disorders.
Tips and tricks to get better outcomes for consumers in the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
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Introduction
Since 2015, occupational therapists at St Vincent’s Mental Health have consulted widely and collaborated with key stakeholders to develop NDIS practice resources for mental health clinicians. The 2018 iteration of this work is publicly available on the Mental Health Professional Online Development Learning Portal.

Objectives
By the end of the session participants will be able to
Appraise tools and activities available on MHPOD.
Describe emerging practice issues and developments.

Approach
This session will provide
An overview to resources available on MHPOD including
NDIS information for mental health clinicians practice advice, tip sheets and tools
NDIS eLearning modules
Implementation Guide: an organisational NDIS readiness checklist
‘Ways of Working with the NDIS’: a practice resource for clinicians articulating NDIS related roles and competencies.
Our most up to date resources, advice and templates.

Practice Implications
NDIS has the potential to transform people’s lives however, it requires being able to identify and justify needs. Occupational therapists in mental health settings have a critical role to play in supporting consumers and their families/carers along the pathway. Without strong evidence, and an understanding of how the NDIS Act is applied in Access and Planning decisions, many consumers fare poorly. The resources presented in this session will assist occupational therapist to help consumers fare much better.

Conclusion
Unlocking the potential of NDIS funded supports can require comprehensive understanding of the NDIS. These resources and tips have been developed in an effort to distil this understanding into usable formats, and with time-poor occupational therapists in mind.