

DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES IN HOME MODIFICATION PRACTICE FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS

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ABSTRACT

Home modification practices are integral interventions within occupational therapy, aiming to optimize living environments for individuals with diverse needs. A comprehensive understanding of these interventions is crucial for progress and refining current practices. Recent studies have underscored this necessity and proposed solutions to enhance the efficacy of home modification practices. Foster (2019) emphasized the importance of comprehensively understanding the current state of home modification practices to identify gaps and inform future research and interventions. The focus of this study was to develop tailored guidelines for home modification practices for occupational therapists in Qatar. These guidelines aimed to establish consistent protocols for managing patients referred for home modification. Additionally, the study assessed the current home modification practices of Occupational Therapists in Qatar and evaluated the satisfaction levels of clients or their families with these practices. The proposed guidelines were developed to address identified shortcomings in current practices, and their acceptability among occupational therapists in Qatar was evaluated. Ultimately, the study aimed to establish a baseline dataset informing future research, practice, and policy development in home modification practices in Qatar. By documenting current practices, satisfaction levels, and proposed guidelines, the research aimed to contribute to ongoing efforts to enhance the quality, accessibility, and inclusivity of occupational therapy services in Qatar. Findings revealed that most therapists in Qatar do not use standardized step-by-step guidelines for home assessment, despite expressing a desire for such guidelines. Additionally, there is a lack of involvement in research or follow-up studies regarding home modification practices among Occupational Therapists in Qatar. However, clients and families expressed high satisfaction levels with current home modification practices, attributed to factors such as recommendations, therapist involvement, collaboration, and safety measures. The proposed step-by-step guidelines offer a comprehensive framework for occupational therapists, prioritizing evidence-based practice and professional standards to enhance service quality in Qatar. The guidelines advocate for client-centered care and collaboration in decision-making, aiming to improve satisfaction and outcomes. Feedback from occupational therapists regarding the proposed guidelines was generally positive, indicating a high level of acceptance and satisfaction with the suggested framework for guiding their practice in home modification interventions. This study is considered a valuable resource for developing comprehensive home modification practice guidelines for occupational therapists.

Keywords: Home modification practices, Occupational therapy, Guidelines, Satisfaction levels