Completing Comprehensive OT Evaluations and Resources for Success

Successful outcomes start with a comprehensive evaluation. Taking the time to thoroughly understand the whole picture of what's going on with your patient will help guide treatment planning toward meaningful, occupation based activities that will achieve your patient's individualized goals. In order to establish functional, achievable goals for our patients, OTs need to take the time to understand not just the patient's condition, but what's impacting that condition, motivating the patient toward recovery, and how the therapist can capitalize on patient strengths to address deficits in order to improve function.

Tips for supporting clinical decision making with evaluation:

• Treatment Diagnoses should be supported with standardized tests and measures and reported impairments that demonstrate a deficit requiring intervention

• Fully assess all aspects of the patient's condition to determine both which underlying impairments may be affecting function and strengths that can be optimized to achieve goals. A full assessment for underlying impairments includes objective information for strength, ROM, balance, pain, vision, coordination, sensation, activity tolerance, cognition and other items to support the plan of treatment.

   Helpful hint: On the IPAD or Desktop, click the Green + sign before adding functional deficits to gain a full list of possible impairments that may need to be assessed prior to developing goals.

• Review the patient's medication list; include on the evaluation any medications/medication groups that may impact treatment. For example-Does the medication increase the risk for falls? Impact cardiac status? Decrease ability to build muscle? Increase risk of confusion when taking?

• Determine what is important to the patient and their motivations for development of treatment activities that are meaningful and engaging

• Determine the patient's discharge plan to set appropriate, achievable long term goals based on that plan.