

# AOTA ECHO Series on Occupational Therapy Interventions for Adults with Multiple Sclerosis

January 19, 2023

# Preparing for the session



To ensure sessions run smoothly, please follow the <u>AOTA Event Code of Conduct</u>.



Use the Q&A feature to submit questions.



Comments in the chat will go to AOTA staff and speakers.



Reminder: The session is being recorded.



# Today's Speakers



Rebecca Cunningham OTD, OTR/L, MSCS



Ashley Uyeshiro Simon OTD, OTR/L, MSCS



# **Objectives**

- Describe the process AOTA uses for developing practice guidelines
- 2. Describe the AOTA OT Practice Guidelines clinical recommendations related to adults with MS
- 3. Discuss how clinical recommendations can be applied to your clients



# Overview of Practice Guidelines Development Process



# **Practice Guidelines Purposes**

Help OTPs to understand OT's role in providing services to adults with MS by translating relevant research findings from systematic reviews into practice

Support those who manage, reimburse, or set policy regarding OT services understand OT's role in providing services to adults with MS

Serve as a reference for healthcare professionals, healthcare facility managers, education professionals, third-party payers, managed care organizations, and those who conduct research to advance care of adults with MS



# **Practice Guidelines Development**

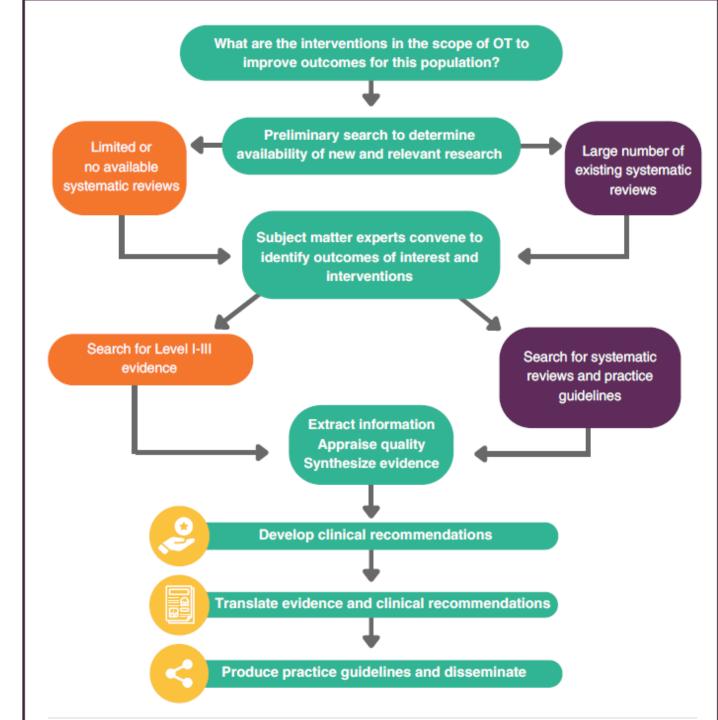
Systematic reviews

Clinical recommendation synthesis

Evidence Translation Practice guidelines



# Practice Guideline Development Process



# **Systematic Review Questions**

ADLs, sleep, and rest (PwMS)

IADLs (PwMS)

Education, work, volunteering, leisure, and social participation (PwMS)

Participation in caregiver role (CG for PwMS)



# **Systematic Review Process**

Literature search

Abstract review

Full-text review

Thematic synthesis of final included articles

Identification of strength of evidence



# Clinical Recommendation Synthesis

- Findings from each systematic review are graded in terms of how confident a practitioner can feel that using the presented intervention will improve targeted client outcomes
- Grade of confidence is based on:
  - Specificity of intervention
  - Number of studies supporting the intervention
  - Levels of evidence of studies
  - Quality of studies
  - Significance of studies' findings



# Clinical Recommendation Synthesis

### Grade A

- Strong evidence
   OTPs should
   routinely provide the
   intervention to
   eligible clients
- Strong evidence found that intervention improves important outcomes
- Benefits substantially outweigh harms

### Grade B

- Moderate evidence
   OTPs should
   routinely provide the
   intervention to
   eligible clients
- High certainty that net benefit is moderate OR moderate certainty net benefit is moderate to substantial

### Grade D

- Recommended that OTPs NOT provide intervention to eligible clients
- At least fair evidence was found that intervention is ineffective OR harms outweigh benefits



# **Practice Guidelines Components**

Clinical recommendations and supporting evidence

Clinical case studies and algorithms

Strengths and limitations of current body of evidence

Clinical gaps in the evidence

General implications for occupational therapy



# **Using PG Clinical Recommendations**

# Questions to Ask

Exactly what intervention do I need to provide?

How well do the conditions in which I will provide the intervention match those in the studies?

How flexible is the intervention, and how much can I modify or adapt it?



# **Using PG Clinical Gap Information**

# **Questions to Ask**

What evidence exists?

What are my client's preferences and values?

What experience and expertise do I have that can help guide my decisions?

Will the health system or system organization be supportive of this intervention?



# **Knowledge Translation Resources** related to Practice Guidelines

- AJOT Evidence Connection articles
  - Provide examples of how evidence from Systematic Reviews can be translated into practice and clinical decision-making for one case example
- HOT Evidence Infographics
- Evidence-Informed Intervention Ideas Checklists
- Everyday Evidence Podcasts





# OT Practice Guidelines for Adults with MS

Cunningham, R., Uyeshiro Simon, A., & Preissner, K. (2022). Practice Guidelines— Occupational therapy practice guidelines for adults with multiple sclerosis. American Journal of Occupational Therapy, 76, 7605397010. https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2022.050088

# **MS Systematic Review Questions**

What is the evidence for the effectiveness of interventions within the scope of OT practice to improve and/or maintain sleep and rest and performance and participation in ADLs for adults with MS?

What is the evidence for the effectiveness of interventions within the scope of OT practice to improve and maintain performance and participation in IADLs among adults with MS?

What is the evidence for the effectiveness of interventions within the scope of OT practice to improve and/or maintain the performance and participation in education, work, volunteering, leisure, and social participation among adults with MS?

What is the evidence for the effectiveness of interventions for caregivers of people with MS within the scope of OT practice that facilitate and maintain participation in the caregiver role?



# Clinical Recommendations for ADLs, Sleep, Rest - STRONG

### Address Sexual Function

- Women with MS
- 4 weekly 60-120 minutes sessions
- Community based setting
- Based on PLISSIT or Ex-PLISSIT model
- Improve management of sexual dysfunction
- Khakbazan et al., 2016; Daneshfar et al., 2017

### Falls Prevention

- Ambulatory adults with MS
- Physical activity intervention to address balance, strength, and stretching
- Group or home based
- 4-10 sessions over 10-12 weeks
- Reduce number of falls
- Coote et al., 2013; Sosnoff et al., 2014



# Clinical Recommendations for ADLs, Sleep, Rest - MODERATE

# Address Sleep – Intervention Type 1

- Adults with MS
- Mindfulness meditation intervention
- 1 session/week for 8 weeks
- Online context
- Improve short-term sleep problems
- Cavalera et al., 2019

# Address Sleep – Intervention Type 2

- Women with MS
- CBT outpatient program
- Group or individual
- 90 minute session/week for 8 weeks
- Improve sleep quality
- Abbasi et al., 2016; Kiropoulos et al., 2016



# Clinical Recommendations for IADLs - STRONG

### Address Physical Activity Health Management Routines

- Adults with MS
- Combination of 4-15 educational materials plus 7-15 1:1 coaching sessions
- Video or phone coaching sessions
- Online, newsletter, or DVD educational materials
- Improve participation in physical activity
- Dlugonski et al., 2012; Motl et al., 2017; Pilutti et al., 2014; Sandroff et al., 2014; Suh et al., 2015; Turner et al., 2016



# Clinical Recommendations for IADLs - MODERATE

# Address Medication Health Management Routines

- Adults with MS
- CBT and MI informed counseling or coaching
- 3-5 weeks of telephone based 1:1 sessions
- Improve adherence with medication regimen
- Bruce et al., 2016; Turner et al., 2014



# Clinical Recommendations for Work, Education, Volunteering, Leisure, Social Participation - MODERATE

### Address Work

- Adults with MS
- 7 "Work and MS" educational modules over 4 weeks
- Online program
- Improve confidence in career goals and problem solving for workplace difficulties
- Dorstyn et al., 2018; Dorstyn et al., 2017



# Clinical Recommendations for Caregivers - STRONG

# Address Caregiver Needs

- Caregivers of people with MS
- Collaborative care or psychoeducation sessions
- 6-12 weeks of in-person group intervention
- Improve support to caregivers
- Pahlavanzadeh et al., 2015; Rakhshan et al., 2018



# Clinical Recommendations for Caregivers - MODERATE

# Address Caregiver Needs

- Couples in which 1 partner has MS
- In-person group intervention
- 5-8 sessions
- Improve relationship quality
- Navidian et al., 2017; Tompkins et al., 2013



# **Practice Guidelines Algorithms**

Sleep interventions Physical activity health management interventions

Sexual activity
ADL
interventions



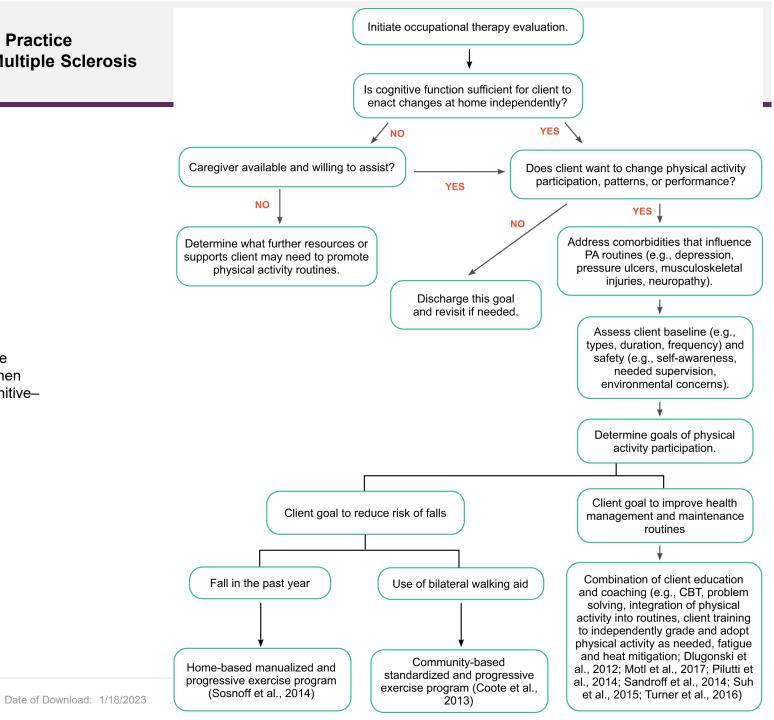


## From: Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Adults With Multiple Sclerosis

# Interventions to improve or maintain physical activity for adults with MS.

Note. Occupational therapy practitioners should always consider the client's personal preferences, access to resources, and interests when developing the plan of care and selecting interventions. CBT = cognitive—behavioral therapy; PA = physical activity.

Am J Occup Ther. 2022;76(5). doi:10.5014/ajot.2022.050088





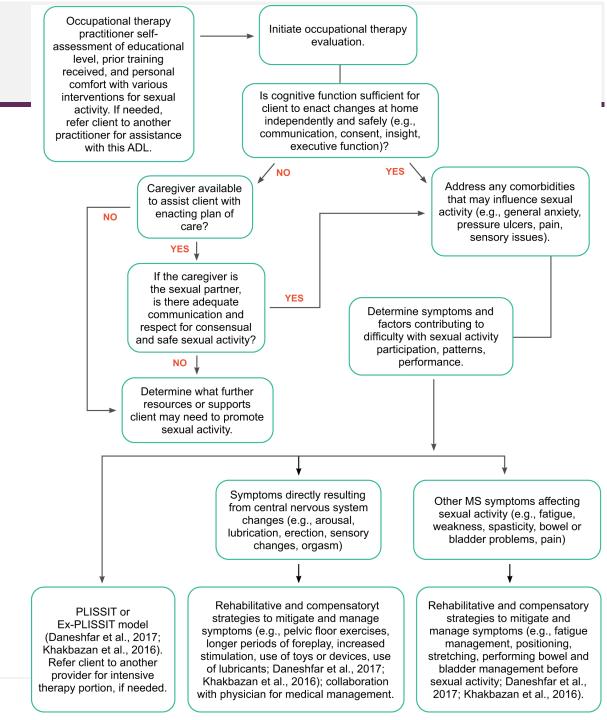
# From: Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Adults With Multiple Sclerosis

Date of Download: 1/18/2023

# Interventions for sexual activity for adults with MS.

Note. Occupational therapy practitioners should always consider the client's personal preferences, access to resources, and interests when developing the plan of care and selecting interventions. ADL = activity of daily living; MS = multiple sclerosis; EX-PLISSIT = Extended Permission PLISSIT; PLISSIT = Permission, Limited Information, Specific Suggestion, Intensive Therapy.

Am J Occup Ther. 2022;76(5). doi:10.5014/ajot.2022.050088





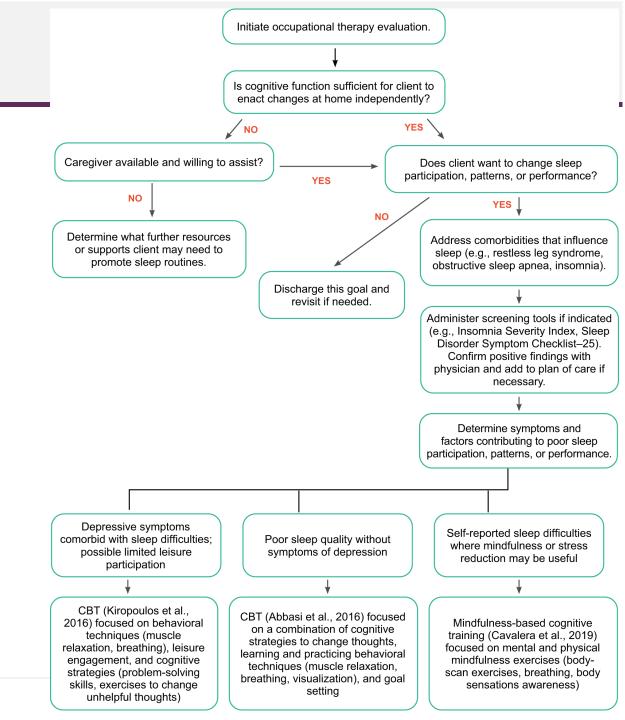
## From: Occupational Therapy Practice Guidelines for Adults With Multiple Sclerosis

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Am J Occup Ther. 2022;76(5). doi:10.5014/ajot.2022.050088



# Strengths and Limitations of Current Body of Evidence

### Strengths

- Following best-practice methodology through each stage
- Input at every stage from practitioners, researchers, consumers, and experts
- Systematic review questions developed with focus on occupationbased outcomes
- Avoided overlap with practice guidelines from other diagnoses

### Limitations

- Predominately female sample size across studies which limits generalizability to males, especially in caregiver studies
- Prevention and prevention-related intervention language not included in systematic review questions



# **Clinical Gaps**

Fatigue Management Interventions

Interventions to Address Social and Emotional Regulation Health Management

Interventions to Address Cognition

Bowel and Bladder Management Interventions

Caregiver Involvement



# General Implications for Occupational Therapy

Occupation as ends and means

Coaching interventions to support health management

Online or virtual service delivery methods

Occupationbased performance assessments





# **Participant Questions**

- How do you address executive function impairment in MS?
- What are effective goals for "just right challenge" with MS when signs or symptoms are not clear and vary depending on the day in the same individual?
- Does the red marrow of the brain have anything to do with MS?
- How do you recommend addressing a person's fatigue and preventing over-exertion in the context of a high-intensity inpatient rehab setting where patients are seen for 75-90 minutes 5x/week?



# **Participant Questions**

- What are some short-term goals for patients with MS regarding cognitive integration such as sensory processing?
- Why is it that other countries' treatment protocols cannot be available or considered appropriate for people in our country with MS?

 What are the broader roles and functions of occupational and physical therapy for the ongoing treatment of clients with MS?



# **Participant Questions**

- Do you have any recommendations for adaptive equipment for self-catheterizing or specific brands for people who have fine motor deficits?
- Could you explain what infusion is and what the benefits are for people with MS?
- Work at a MS center in the Eastern part of the US we notice that hand function many times is an early indicator of further/future MS symptoms. What evaluations do you use and what treatments do you find are most effective for maintaining or preventing decline in hand function?



# **Participant Questions**

- Any evidence regarding the use of weights to limit tremors?
- In our health system we have multi-D clinics where multiple providers (rehab, psych, MD, respiratory, etc.) will see a client on the same day. This can maximize real time collaboration with populations such as individuals with ALS. Have you seen this model adopted for clients with MS?
- What have you found is the most common concern expressed among clients with MS?



# **Participant Questions**

- Is poor insight (into abilities/deficits) more common in MS than in other cognition-affecting diagnoses?
- When working with a person with MS do you have any suggestions for differentiating between DM associated neuropathy or MS neuropathy like pain?
- Can you briefly say more about pseudobulbar affect impact and how that may alter your treatment approach?



# **Participant Questions**

- How can OT and the rest of the care team approach patient burnout? (i.e., - I have a client who's had MS for 25+ years and has become more "noncompliant" in recent years)
- Various types of stress can trigger many chronic illnesses. What are the strategies used to address stress for health management? (i.e., realistic to prevent relapses by managing stress)
- What are some cognitive behavioral management [strategies/methods] involved with short term goals with MS clients?



# Application and Case Example

# **Case Example: Social History**

- Connie (she/her/hers) is 35 years old
- Connie lives with her partner
- Connie identifies difficulties communicating with partner impacts participation in sexual activities and pattern of partner overcompensating for Connie during home management IADLs and meal prep IADLs
- Connie worked full-time as an elementary school administrator, and resigned due to the impact of her MS symptoms on work performance



# **Case Example: Health History**

- Connie was diagnosed with MS five years ago
- Connie identifies the following MS symptoms: fatigue, heat sensitivity, and urinary symptoms (incontinence, frequency, urgency)
- Connie recognizes that overexertion and stress contribute to MS symptom presentation
- Connie is independent to modified independent with all ADLs



# **Case Example: Health History**

- Connie's symptoms make home management and meal prep IADLs more difficulty, but she expresses desire to participate more in these occupations
- Connie values her relationship with her partner and would like to engage more in sexual-intimacy activities
- Connie would like to return to work
- The MS comprehensive care center's nurse practitioner has referred Connie to OT to address her occupational concerns



# Case Example: Occupational Profile

	Reason the client is seeking service and concerns related to engagement in occupations (p. 16)	Why is the client seeking services, and what are the client's current concerns relative to engaging in occupations and in daily life activities? (This may include the client's general health status.)  Connie is seeking treatment due to occupational deficits in work, sexual-intimacy activities, home management IADLs, and meal prep IADLs caused by fatigue, heat sensitivity, and urinary symptoms (incontinence, frequency, and urgency) secondary to MS.
Client Report	Occupations in which the client is successful and barriers impacting success (p. 16)	In what occupations does the client feel successful, and what barriers are affecting their success in desired occupations?  Connie is independent to modified independent with all ADLs.  Connie identifies difficulties communicating with her partner as a barrier to occupational engagement in sexual intimacy/expression activities, home management IADLs, and meal prep IADLs. Connie's partner currently completes the majority of home management IADLs and meal prep IADLs, but Connie has expressed desire to do more in these occupational domains. Connie's symptoms also interfere with her previous job performance resulting in her resignation.
	Occupational history (p. 16)	What is the client's occupational history (i.e., life experiences)?  Connie is a 35-year-old African American woman who was diagnosed with MS 5 years ago. Connie was previously an elementary school administrator.
	Personal interests and values (p. 16)	What are the client's values and interests?  Connie values her relationship with her partner. She desires to engage in sexual-intimacy activities and be an active participant in home management IADLs and meal prep IADLs. Connie also desires to return to work.

		What aspects of their contexts (environmental and personal factors) does the client see as supporting engagement in desired occupations, and what aspects are inhibiting engagement?	
	Environment (p. 36) (e.g., natural environment and human-made changes, products and technology, support and	Connie has a supportive partner	Inhibiting Engagement  Difficulties maintaining full-time employment due to symptom presentation
Contexts	relationships, attitudes, serv- ices, systems and policies)	Connie has strong relationships with friends and previous colleagues that provide emotional support	procentation
	Personal (p. 40) (e.g., age, sexual orientation, gender identity, race and ethni- city, cultural identification, social background, upbringing, psychological assets, educa- tion, lifestyle)	Supporting Engagement  Connie has strong insight into the connection between activity choices and symptom presentation	Inhibiting Engagement  Connie has difficulties communicating her needs to her partner regarding sexual intimacy, and her desire to participate more in home management IADLs and meal prep IADLs

	Performance Patterns	Performance patterns (p. 41) (e.g., habits, routines, roles, rituals)	) (e.g., habits, routines,	
			What client factors does the client see as supporting engagement in desired occupations, and what aspects are inhibiting engagement (e.g., pain, active symptoms)?	
		Values, beliefs, spirituality (p. 51)	Supporting Engagement  Desire to engage in sexual- intimacy activities with partner  Desire to increase involvement in home mgmt. and meal prep tasks  Strong social support system	Inhibiting Engagement  Difficulty with communication and self-advocacy
	Client Factors	Body functions (p. 51) (e.g., mental, sensory, neuro- musculoskeletal and movement-related, cardiovascular functions)	Supporting Engagement  Higher cognitive functions Sensory functions intact	Inhibiting Engagement  Fatigue Heat sensitivity Urinary symptoms (urgency, frequency, and incontinence)
n		Body structures (p. 54) (e.g., structures of the nervous system, eyes and ears, related to movement)	Supporting Engagement  Gross motor Fine motor Functional mobility	Inhibiting Engagement  None

	Client's priorities and desired targeted outcomes (p. 65)	What are the client's priorities and desired targeted outcomes related to the items below?
		Occupational Performance – home management IADLs, meal prep IADLs, sexual activity ADLs and intimate partner relationships, social and emotional health promotion management, and urinary symptom/condition health management
w		Prevention – symptom/condition health management
Client Goals		Health and Wellness - social and emotional health promotion management
lient		Quality of Life – sexual activity ADLs; Intimate partner relationships; social and emotional health promotion management
ပ		Participation – Employment interests and pursuits; Employment seeking and acquisition
		Role Competence – intimate partner relationships
		Well-Being - social and emotional health promotion management
		Occupational Justice – employment seeking and acquisition

How does using the Occupational Profile support addressing the needs of clients with multiple sclerosis?

How can the Occupational Profile uncover ways multiple sclerosis may be impacting occupational performance?





What are the client's health management challenges?



How does the client's context affect performance and participation related to health management?



 What skills does the client need to use and/or develop to be successful with health management and other occupations?

 What would the client's day to day life look like if OT was successful in supporting the client to successfully address health management and other occupations?



The next step of the evaluation process is the Analysis of Occupational Performance.

Based on the Occupational Profile, what are some ways the practitioner could then analyze occupational performance?



# Wrap Up

- Post-Session Questionnaire
- ECHO MS Post-Session 2 Survey: Clinical Recommendations
   MS Practice Guideline Formstack (aota.org)
- Questions and Cases for Discussion
- A submission link will be included in the follow-up email
- Questions: <u>ebp@aota.org</u>
  - Or see the <u>Welcome Packet</u>



# **Next Session**

- Don't forget to join us for the next AOTA ECHO session on February 2nd.
- Ensuring Quality OT Services and Addressing Gaps in the Practice Guidelines



Kathleen Zackowski PhD, OTR



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