A Company-Wide Initiative to Improve Screening for Vision Impairment

Background
• Tremendous growth of America's elderly population
• Vision impairment prevalence increases with age
• Impairments often unnoticed until vision is screened
• Adults expect declining vision with aging
• Impaired vision negatively impacts occupational performance
• Vision impairments must be identified prior to intervention to improve occupational performance

Rationale
Number of vision screenings performed by OTs will increase

Objectives
• >1 out of 6 point increase in knowledge of vision impairment & confidence in screening (6 questions; 1=strongly disagree to 7=strongly agree)
• 40% of clients will undergo vision screening
• Identify & resolve barriers to vision screening

Methods
Literature review to identify:
• Aspects of vision to be screened
• Valid & reliable screening tools
• Inexpensive screening tools options

Developed & Presented a series of 3 workshops

Session 1 Lecture
- Age related vision impairment
- Conditions to be screened
- Standardized tools and low cost options

Session 2 Hands-on Practice
- MN Read
- ETDRS
- Amsler Grid
- Peripheral Vision
- Mars Contrast Sensitivity
- VF-14 Self Report

Session 3 Discussion
- Case Study Discussion
- Reflective Discussion
- Resources for:
  – Physician referral sources
  – Screening tools at each site
  – Mentors at each facility

Outcomes
Figure 1. Participants self-report of knowledge and confidence levels pre/post workshops

Session Content

Knowledge and Confidence Questionnaire Before and After Workshops

Figure 2. Participant's self-report of vision screens completed pre/post workshops

Figure 3. Participants self-report of barriers to vision screening pre/post workshops

Conclusions
Summary:
Comprehensive educational initiative can improve OT staff's self-perception of knowledge and confidence in focus area

Adult Learning Principles
• Multi component interventions impact outcomes
• Tailored intervention can drive behavior change
• Reflective practice helps change participants perspective

Participant Satisfaction with Workshop:
• Vision impairment screenings help provide better patient care
• Felt improved ability to complete vision impairment screen
• Satisfied with teaching methods

Most Beneficial Within the Workshop:
• Tangible resources
• Hands on practice
• Presence of mentor

Barriers to Vision Screening:
Limited knowledge of process and tools are barriers

Limitations
Small sample size completing questionnaires (9) compared to all participants (25)

Number of screens unchanged before and after education. Potential reasons:
• Lack of time
• 2/9 respondents hand therapists
• Mentor unavailable

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