**Title:** A Systematic Review of the Literature: Occupational Therapy and Primary Care

**Speaker Qualifications:** John Flood OTS, Jillian Petty OTS, Noreen Reidy OTS, and Shannon Whyte OTS are occupational therapy students at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA. Each student has completed Thomas Jefferson University’s occupational therapy program curriculum up to January 2014, including two level two fieldwork rotations. Each student is scheduled to graduate in May 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in Occupation & Health and a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy. Through fieldwork rotations, speakers have gained experience in acute care, home care, and inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation settings. These settings have led to interactions with members of primary care teams. The students also completed two years of Thomas Jefferson University's Health Mentor’s program where they interacted on an interprofessional healthcare team.

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**Primary Focus:** Health & Wellness

**Learning Objectives:**

- Define occupational therapy’s role in the primary care setting with a focus on those with chronic conditions using Occupational Therapy Practice Framework terminology.
- Describe the current evidence on occupational performance related to occupational therapy services in primary care.
- Discuss the future implications for occupational therapists working in primary care.

**Abstract:**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this systematic review is to examine the available evidence on occupational therapy in primary care with a focus on the population of those with chronic conditions. In the United States, health care costs are on the rise for many populations within the country (Cohen, Cohen, & Banthin, 2009). Individuals living with chronic conditions are especially affected by this cost due to their frequently required health care interventions (Thorpe, Florence, & Joski, 2004). The following PICO question was formed to guide research: “What is the evidence that supports occupational therapy in patient outcomes in primary care for those with chronic conditions?

**Methods:** An extensive search of CINHAL, Ovid Medline, and OT Search was performed from January to February 2014. We included articles of all levels of evidence. In addition, an inclusion criteria for articles level I - IV was that the article must describe subjects as having a change in occupational performance due to a chronic condition. To prevent bias, the articles were methodically critiqued using either the Law and MacDermid review form or FRAWP’S critique review (a level V evidence review form) and articles were reviewed twice (Law & MacDermid, 2014, pp. 376-378). A qualitative approach was taken to best synthesis the articles into set themes.
**Results:** Thirteen articles were included. Twelve of the articles were level I evidence and one article was of level V evidence. The articles ranged from low to high levels of evidence, but the majority of evidence was lower level due to the novelty of the topic. The results indicate that having an occupational therapist in a primary care setting improves occupational performance for individuals with chronic conditions.

**Conclusions:** The systematic review identifies multiple level V expert opinions supporting and justifying occupational therapists to be in a primary care setting. The single level I article alludes to supporting integrated occupational therapy interventions in a primary care setting with evidence showing the cost effectiveness. The amount of evidence is limited; further research is needed to support the role of occupational therapy in primary care.

**Other:**

**Describe the Level of material being presented:** Introductory

**Describe the Target Audience:** OTR/L, COTA, OTS, Physicians, patients, Caregivers, Nursing Staff, Researchers, and Insurance companies.

**References:**

