Outcome measurement: working for you and working for service users – Q&A

Professor Pamela Enderby OBE, University of Sheffield
Kathryn Moyse and Amit Kulkarni, RCSLT

Question: Our service uses paper notes. We have no access to electronic records. Any advice on how we can pull the paper TOMs data together on a service wide level to make it more meaningful?

Answer: One option would be to use the ROOT and enter data directly into the system. All you would need is access to an internet browser. The ROOT collates all of the outcomes data collected from across your service and enables you to generate reports at both an individual service user level and a service-wide level. More information about the ROOT is available here.

Question: Do you have an excel template for TOMs that you could share?

Answer: An excel spreadsheet for collecting Therapy Outcome Measures data can be downloaded from the ROOT. This spreadsheet is compatible with the ROOT, meaning that you could upload your spreadsheet of TOMs data in bulk to the ROOT, should you wish to do so. More information about the ROOT is available here.

Question: I work in a youth justice service and often young people are undiagnosed and can present with many difficulties. How would you go about standardising the scales you use from TOMs in data collection to ensure its consistent?

Answer: To assist you with being consistent with selecting which TOMs scale to use, it can help to think about what it the primary areas of need and selecting the corresponding scale. If speech and language therapy is targeting a secondary area of need, you can use a secondary TOMs scale. There is more information about this in pages 8 and 9 of the Therapy Outcome Measure User Guide. If, however, there is not a TOMs scale that is suitable, you may wish to consider using the 'core' TOMs scale, or consider being involved in developing a scale specifically for this population. Please refer to chapter 6 in the Therapy Outcome Measure User Guide for more details about this.

Do you have questions about outcome measurement?

For questions related to the RCSLT Online Outcome Tool, please contact root@rcslt.org
For all other outcomes-related questions, please contact info@rcslt.org