

**TITLE: Review of OT services at the Primary level using different strategies for delivery.**

In 1994 South Africa adopted the primary health care approach as the basis for the delivery of health care to provide services to all, as a basic human right as entrenched in the Constitution.

In spite of considerable reallocation of funding, re-alignment of training of health professionals, incentives for health professionals working in rural areas, the introduction of a year of compulsory community service for newly qualified health professionals, the development of services at the primary level are far from the optimal levels.

Rehabilitation at the primary level, although it is named in all legislation and policy documents, the service requirements are poorly described as compared to other types of services. As a result the nature of rehabilitation services at this level are poorly articulated and understood and as a result are poorly resourced. Thus development of rehabilitation services throughout the country and within health districts is inconsistent and where development has taken place sustainability is a concern.

The current Minister of Health, as one component of his 2011 10 point plan to address the problems in delivery of health services, is consulting to “re engineer primary health care”.

This provides a window of opportunity for occupational therapists to review current rehabilitation practice at the primary level in terms of service delivery and sustainability in terms of meeting community needs.

Occupational therapy services at the primary care level are delivered using three different strategies: community based, clinic based and community outreach.

The paper will review service delivery and sustainability of rehabilitation services at 3 sites in the University of Witwatersrand Academic Teaching Platform each using a different strategy for the delivery of occupational therapy to the community.

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