

Development of a credentialing package to support the introduction of advanced practice Occupational Therapy driver assessor roles

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Introduction

The Allied Health Division at Western Health (WH) developed a framework to assist with the recognition of advanced practice roles. As Occupational Therapy (OT) driver assessment was deemed a highly specialised area, with completion of additional qualification to practice mandatory, it met the relevant criteria to be recognised as an advanced practice role. However, there was no process in place internally or externally to ensure clinicians practicing as OT driver assessors were appropriately credentialled.

Aim

- 1) To develop and implement a credentialing package supporting the delivery of a consistent, high quality service
- 2) To credential OT driver assessors at WH as advanced practice clinicians

Method

Drawing on resources already available, including the Driver Off-road Assessment Battery¹ and the Guidelines for OT Driver Assessors² a credentialing package was established. Credentialing assessments previously not available were developed and included in the package.

Credentialing Assessment

Observation checklist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate observed in a minimum of one driver assessment
Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions to candidate i.e. what are the clinical indicators for a spinner knob?
Documentation Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 client histories per candidate audited
Portfolio of evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of qualification and clinical experience

Initial credentialing was completed by an OT driver educator and assessor from a Victorian university.

Re-Credentialing Assessment (annual completion)

Documentation Audits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 client histories per candidate audited
Portfolio of evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record of monthly supervision • Annual Performance Appraisal • Continued professional development • A minimum of 5 assessments per year

Results

- The credentialing package was ratified by WH's Allied Health Credentialing and Professional Advisory Committee; who are tasked with governance of advanced practice allied health roles.
- Three OT clinicians have been credentialled as advanced driver assessor practitioners.
- Clinicians have reported that although the process is time intensive, it has certainly been a positive experience, providing recognition of specialised skills.

Discussion

The development and implementation of a credentialing package is an effective way to support the implementation of advanced practice roles. It aids sustainability and consistency of practice and provides confidence in the delivery of a quality service.

Further evaluation of driver assessor advanced practice roles will be undertaken in 12 months and the sustainability of the credentialing process will be reviewed.

1. Driver off-road Assessment Battery. (2011). American Occupational Therapy Association Inc. Unsworth, C.A., Pallant, J.F, Russell, K.J. & Odell, M.
2. Guidelines for Occupational Therapy (OT) Driver Assessors. (2008). VicRoads and OT Australia Victoria.

