

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

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Exploring the role of sex and gender on health research



CHR D 2020: Abstract Submission Form

Submitter Name

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Title

Evaluating therapist's perceptions of virtual care for pediatric rehabilitation during the COVID-19 pandemic: Preliminary findings

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic required an immediate and unprecedented change in health service delivery. Certain pediatric outpatient rehabilitation sites in Winnipeg, Manitoba responded to physical distancing mandates by rapidly implementing virtual care (combination of videoconferencing, telephone), beginning mid-March 2020.

Objective

The purpose of this study was to understand the barriers, facilitators, and experiences related to this change in service delivery, from the perspectives of Occupational Therapists (OTs) and Physical Therapists (PTs) at a single centre.

Methods

A qualitative case study was conducted. Four PT students completed 1:1 semi-structured interviews with eight therapists (n=4 OTs, n=4 PTs). Pediatric therapists who continued to work during early stages of physical distancing mandates were recruited. Interviews were conducted virtually (Zoom for Healthcare), recorded, and transcribed verbatim. Preliminary thematic analysis has been completed.

Results

Data from all eight therapists were included in analysis. Therapists had 16.5 (2-35) years of experience (median, range), and predominantly worked with children 0-5 years old. Three preliminary themes were identified from the data. Initial findings are that "Virtual care during the pandemic...": i) provided options, ii) presented opportunity for skill development and refinement, and iii) should continue post-pandemic. Barriers to using virtual care were described at the level of the therapist (new skillset), patient / family (did not work well for certain diagnoses / assessments), and technology (access, failure). Facilitators included support (from management, colleagues, information technology support), early adopters, and early wins. A

hybrid model that provides options for in-person or virtual care was identified as a preferred future model of care.

Conclusion

Despite the rapid and unprecedented implementation of virtual care in pediatric outpatient rehabilitation, therapists largely described this as a positive experience, as it provided options, opportunities, and fostered the development of new skills, many of which were perceived to be relevant post-pandemic.

Theme:

Clinical

Do you have a table/figure to upload?

No

Are you willing to participate in Goodbear's Den?

Yes

Presenter Status:

Masters Student

What was your role in the project?

Write Abstract

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