



Defense Health Agency (DHA) Clinical Communities Speaker Series

August 2021 CCSS: Exploration of Innovations in Health Care

S04: Maximizing Function through Innovative Occupational Therapy and Assistive Technology Interventions

Resource List

The [Polytrauma/TBI System of Care \(PSC\)](#) (2021) is a wide-reaching network of rehabilitation programs that specialize in serving Veterans and Service Members with combat and civilian related Trauma Brain Injury (TBI) and polytrauma. PSC services include evaluation and treatment from an interdisciplinary team, case management, patient and family education and training, psychosocial support, and advanced rehabilitation treatments and prosthetic technologies. This website is a great resource for service members, health care providers and families.

The American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) has endorsed the [Access to Assistive Technology and Devices for Americans Study Act](#), (2021) which was introduced to the U.S. House of Representatives (Triple A Study, H.R. 2461/S1089) in April 2021. The intention of this study would be assess issues related to health insurance and other coverage for assistive technologies, including prosthetics and orthotics, for individuals who have had amputations or for those who live with limb differences. The directive is for the Government Accountability Office to include comparisons of claims and data from Medicare, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and commercial health insurers. This would include an assessment of rehabilitative services to support acclimation to assistive technologies and a review of coding for occupational therapy, physical therapy and physician services. Most recently this bill has been referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

[Influence of adapted sports on quality of life and life satisfaction in sport participants and non-sport participants with physical abilities](#) (2012) is the review of a controlled trial that assessed the relationship between participation in adapted sports and quality of life and life satisfaction in people with physical disabilities. The results of the study showed that people with physical disabilities who participated in adapted sports had significantly higher Quality of Life reports and life satisfaction scores, whereas those scores of individuals who did not engage in adapted sports were lower.

The article [A Multidisciplinary Approach to Sexual and Fertility rehabilitation: The Sexual Rehabilitation Framework](#) (SRF) (2017) reviews the biopsychosocial manner that sexual and fertility issues may be addressed. The article reviews these issues following a spinal cord injury, however SRF is a user-friendly and simplified way to address the multifaceted areas of sexuality to address a plan of action that can be utilized with other chronic disabilities. It reviews eight different areas of approach to more comprehensively address sexual function.

The American Optometric Association (AOA) has a wonderful [Vision Rehabilitation](#) (n.d.) resource which provides helpful information to health care providers and patients alike. Resources for Doctors of Optometry include those for professionals who are familiar or unfamiliar with Vision Rehabilitation. This includes access to the Vision Rehabilitation Advocacy Network, Fact Sheets, AOA Optometry Brain Injury and two volumes of the Traumatic Brain Injury Manual. This resource page also discusses the neuro-optometric services, including collaboration with rehabilitation specialists such as occupational therapists, physical therapists and speech language pathologists.



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References

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- American Optometric Association (AOA). (n.d.) Vision Rehabilitation. <https://www.aoa.org/practice/specialties/vision-rehabilitation?sso=y>
- Elliot, S., Hocaloski, S., & Carlson, M. (2017). A Multidisciplinary Approach to Sexual and Fertility Rehabilitation: The Sexual Rehabilitation Framework. *Topics in Spinal cord injury rehabilitation*, 23(1), 49-56. <https://doi.org/10.1310/sci2301-49>
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- Yazicioglu, K., Yavuz, F., Salim Goktepe, A. & Kenan Tan, A. (2012). Influence of adapted sports on quality of life and life satisfaction in sport participants and non-sport participants with physical disabilities. *Disability and Health Journal*, 5(4), 249-253. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dhjo.2012.05.003>