Module 2: Lecture 2. The ICF as a clinical reasoning model

Introduction

The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) is a framework for describing and organizing information on functioning and disability. It provides a standard language and a conceptual basis for the definition and measurement of health and disability. It represents a paradigm shift from the linear biomedical ICDIH model by Nagi to a biopsychosocial model that displays elements in mutual affecting relationships, thus surpassing the traditional understanding of causality. Students can be taught to use the ICF model in their clinical reasoning to navigate these complex interrelationships and use these insights to determine a treatment plan.

Learning Outcomes Mapped to EFIC Pain Physiotherapy Curriculum

By the end of this session, participants should be able to:

1. Understand and demonstrate ability to undertake a comprehensive biopsychosocial assessment of the patient across the life span. (2.1.2)
2. Understand and demonstrate an understanding of the rationale behind basic biopsychosocial assessments. (2.1.2)
3. Understand and demonstrate critical selection of appropriate valid and reliable physical and psychological assessment and outcome measures across International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) domains. (2.2.1)
4. Develop, justify and negotiate with the patient an individualised management plan and options, based on evidence and clinical reasoning and within the context in which the patient's experience of pain occurs. (3.1.1)

Preparation

Participants should familiarize themselves with the ICF model by watching part 1 : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uoEIc4wBaIo&ab_channel=PranayJindal (there are 5 parts and they are all fun to watch)

Bring a patient case to class – you are going to use this case in the classroom and map the various aspects of this patient to the ICF model. Get inspired by using the example EFIC case report: https://europeanpainfederation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2017.-EFIC-EDPP-Clinical-Case-Report-Guidelines-and-Example.pdf

Content

After a short introduction of the ICF and a clinical case example in the ICF, participants will map their own case onto the ICF and draw hypotheses about the relationships between the ICF domains. They should reflect on missing items, if any. Each participant will then be paired with another participant to compare notes and explain their clinical reasoning process using reflective questions outlined in the lecture.

Follow up / suggestions for processing and practice

The knowledge and skills developed in this class will give participants a framework for their clinical reasoning and decision-making, which supports their functioning in clinical practice, consistency of documentation and communication between clinical tutors/academics and students as well as student and client.

Reference material

World Health Organisation, Internal Classification of Functioning Disability and Health.

Available at: https://www.who.int/standards/classifications/international-classification-of-functioning-disability-and-health

Heather L Atkinson, Kim Nixon-Cave: A tool for clinical reasoning and reflection using the international classification of functioning, disability and health (ICF) framework and patient management model: DOI: 10.2522/ptj.20090226
Ruth L Chimenti , Laura A Frey-Law, Kathleen A Sluka . A Mechanism-Based Approach to Physical Therapist Management of Pain. DOI: 10.1093/ptj/pzy030