

Knowledge Translation Strategies Promoting the Use of the FSAS-ED

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INTRODUCTION

- ❖ Limited access to family physicians results in older adults (OA) using Emergency Departments (ED) for primary care. Until community primary care services expand, addressing the needs of OAs presenting to the ED is particularly relevant in light of this growing population.
- ❖ To assess the functional status of OAs visiting the ED, appropriate assessment tools are required. The Functional Status Assessment of Seniors in the Emergency Department (FSAS-ED) is a tool developed in French, for occupational therapists (OTs) working in the ED. The FSAS-ED assists OTs with clinical decision-making related to admission or discharge from the ED.
- ❖ However, knowledge translation (KT) is necessary to move the FSAS-ED into practice.

OBJECTIVE

To share the initial findings of a Canadian Institute of Health Research KT grant with a focus on moving the FSAS-ED into practice.
To focus on an evaluation of the KT strategies used to promote the use of the FSAS-ED.

APPROACH

- ❖ A variety of evidence-informed knowledge translation strategies to raise awareness of the importance of functional status assessment for older adults visiting EDs are underway. These strategies include:
 1. Scheduled teleconference meetings of co-researchers
 2. Translation/adaptation of the original version of the tool to English
 3. Development of educational material for the FSAS-ED
 4. Development of a website for FSAS-ED materials and best practice resources for OAs in the ED
 5. Various professional meetings, including presentations at scientific conferences, hosting workshops on the FSAS-ED and an interprofessional ED symposium
 6. Application of knowledge/implementation activities

METHODS

Impacts of KT strategies were evaluated using the following indicators:

1. **Reach indicators** (e.g.: numbers of participants, documents distributed, website consultations, etc.)
2. **Usefulness indicators** (e.g.: questionnaires about the usefulness of the FSAS-ED information, knowledge gained, satisfaction level, etc.)
3. **Use indicators** (e.g.: use of the FSAS-ED, confidence using it, effect on clinician assessment approach and decision-making, etc.)
4. **Partnership indicators** (e.g.: number of partnerships developed throughout the project, FSAS-ED dissemination among partners, etc.)

RESULTS

Preliminary results for the various knowledge translation strategies:

1. **Scheduled teleconference meetings of co-researchers:**
Due to geographical distance between members of the team, monthly teleconferences were held throughout the project to discuss the planning, preparation and evaluation of the various KT activities.



2. **Translation/adaptation of the original version of the tool**



3. **Development of educational material for the FSAS-ED** (tutorial videos are underway)

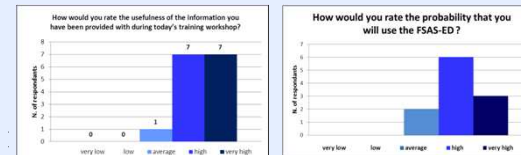


4. **Development of a website** (French and English versions, are underway)

5. **Presentations at scientific meetings**

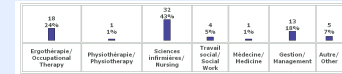


5. **Professional meetings: Workshop on the FSAS-ED**
Workshop evaluations suggests OTs working in the ED valued an evidence-informed functional status assessment tool relevant to their context.



6. **Professional meetings: Symposium entitled Geriatric-friendly interprofessional care in the emergency department: A functional status assessment process for older adults** (held in Québec City, June 2012)

- ❖ 9 presentations addressed emerging knowledge related to the ED environment, practice tools, processes and experiences.
- ❖ 850 visits to the registration website followed the invitation launch. Invite was sent through contact lists and professional associations across Canada.
- ❖ 75 participants registered for the Symposium.
- ❖ Simultaneous translation services were used by 51% of the participants
- ❖ The symposium brought together researchers, clinicians from multiple disciplines including: Emergency Medicine, Nursing, Social Work, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Administrators.



- ❖ Evaluation following the symposium confirmed the importance of interprofessional practice and teams in ED, the OT role in ED, the need for making changes in care practices, functional assessment and use of the FSAS-ED.
- ❖ Overall appreciation of the symposium was rated as good or very good by 97% of participants

6. **Professional meetings: Meeting for occupational therapists working or conducting research in the ED** (to be held in Victoria, BC, May 2013)

7. **Application of knowledge/implementation activities**

- ❖ Information meetings and training sessions on use of the FSAS-ED and/or the role of OT in the ED were completed with the involvement of 4 facilities.
- ❖ A pilot study of the translated FSAS-ED English version was completed at the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority's Health Sciences Centre.

CONCLUSION

- ❖ In order to implement a systematic functional status assessment process within interdisciplinary ED teams, knowledge translation is necessary to disseminate the results of the related research beyond the traditional scientific community and move them into practice.
- ❖ Active KT strategies can promote the importance of functional status assessment for older adults presenting to the EDs and promote occupational therapists use of the FSAS-ED in practice.

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