

The use of objective outcome measures in a specialised posture and mobility service: a review of the literature and initial implementation of the GAS light measure for clinical service evaluation.

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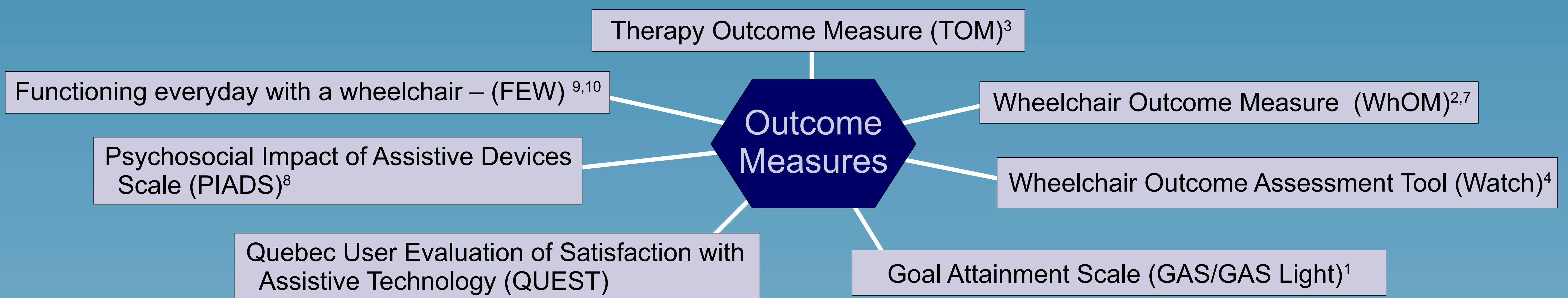
The use of objective outcome measures is very important in monitoring and tracking the effectiveness of clinical interventions in all disciplines. This enables an evidence base to be created on the effectiveness or otherwise of a given intervention. A literature review was done to pull out and then objectively chose an outcome measure to use in the West Midlands Regional Posture and Mobility Service.

Objectives

The aim of this poster is to present a literature review on the different options available as outcome measures within seating services and discuss the reasons for choice of the GAS light measure. The initial implementation of the use of this outcome measure within the service will be discussed and some initial data on its use presented.

Description of our service

We are a regional service providing assessments for mobility equipment to patients with very complex medical and postural needs. Our patients often lack capacity to make decisions and/or are unable to communicate independently. We take an MDT approach to all our assessments and our interventions are based on goals set by the team with the client and their families/carers.



Comparison^{5,6}

Criteria	WhOM	Watch	GAS	GAS light	FEW	TOM	QUEST	PIADS	ATOM
Does it measure effectiveness?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Can it be used with a patient who is unable to communicate or does not have capacity?	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
Does it take less than 5 minutes to administer?	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y
Is it simple to use and require little training?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Is it client centred?	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Is it simple for the client to understand?	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y
Is it specific to the use of wheelchairs or medical devices?	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y

Implementation

The use of GAS light was implemented in November 2019 within our service and used on initial assessment with all new referrals with the exclusion criteria that it would not be used with anyone who was assessed and did not require an intervention from ourselves. Training on it's use was carried out with the therapists and Rehabilitation Engineers within the service. The use of GAS goals has encouraged more SMART goal formulation for our clients.

There have been a few difficulties in implementation:

- Members of staff forgetting to complete the GAS goals as it is a new requirement
- Implementation of a successful way of flagging team members to complete the outcome section upon discharge
- The COVID-19 pandemic has put our regular service on hold or with some reduction as well as causing multiple changes to the team members which has caused some disruption in the use of the outcome measure.

Currently, GASlight is being used consistently for new patients but there are still significant challenges in recording of final outcomes.

Conclusion

After a literature search on outcome measures within wheelchair services, the GAS light came out as the most likely outcome measure to be successfully used to measure the effectiveness of interventions within an NHS Posture and Mobility Service. Our service will be using it for the foreseeable future and we will present our data on it's use and effectiveness in more detail in the future.

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