

(W17) APPLICATION OF THE CMOP FOR SUSTAINING EMPLOYMENT IN PERSONS WITH MS

There is a large body of evidence indicating that employment sustainability is a significant issue for persons with MS. While many individuals with MS have a work history and are working at the time of diagnosis, most become unemployed in subsequent years (Roessler & Rumrill, 2003). While often the issue is maintaining employment, for many people already off work, a desire to return to work does exist.

Work issues are a frequent reason for referral to our MS specific interdisciplinary ambulatory rehabilitation program, named OPTIMUS. Work accommodations are frequently necessary for a person to return to or remain at their job. Accommodations can be made to the environment as well as implementing self-management strategies for MS symptoms. Within our program, the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (CMOP) is used as a framework to guide our occupational therapy assessments and interventions, including those that address work or productivity. The model focuses on the interaction of the person within their environment to achieve the highest level of function in tasks meaningful to them.

The purpose of this poster presentation will be to determine the proportion of patients with employment issues referred to the OPTIMUS program in 2007, explain the CMOP and demonstrate its application to a case study. It will show the various components that need to be considered: the environment, their occupation, and the person, which includes what is important to them. This model provides a comprehensive method to address the myriad concerns for persons wanting to sustain employment.

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