

Emerging Evidence-based Care and Outcome Measure Treatment Approaches

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Introduction: To demonstrate competencies within any profession there is a need to: 1) classify patients in meaningful ways, 2) to standardize the intervention applied and 3) to agree upon the best outcome measures to be used. (Craik 2005) However, evidence-based practice must go beyond just the use of outcome measures as assessment tools.

Methods: Comparative effectiveness research (CER) is the direct comparison of two or more existing healthcare interventions to determine which interventions work best for which patients and which intervention pose the greatest benefits and harms. The core question of CER is which treatment works best, for whom, and under what circumstances. A systematic approach to assessment, treatment selection, treatment administration and documentation allows any clinic to perform CER during the course of regular patient care. Evidenced-based Amputee Rehabilitation (EBAR) is designed to follow traditional rehabilitation guidelines using outcome measure to determine current function, prescribe treatment and determine change over time (Figure 1). The purpose of this presentation is to demonstrate the usefulness of CER for the treatment of people with lower limb loss (LLL) using EBAR as a model. (Gailey R, 2020)

Results: The results of EBAR demonstrate the value of using outcome measure to guide treatment of people with LLL. The use of EBAR and CER can be applied to prosthetics prescription to determine the most effective treatments for specific populations. Moreover, the use of mobile applications facilitates the rapid collection of patient, treatment and outcomes data with minimal burden to regular patient care, with potentially improved functional outcomes.

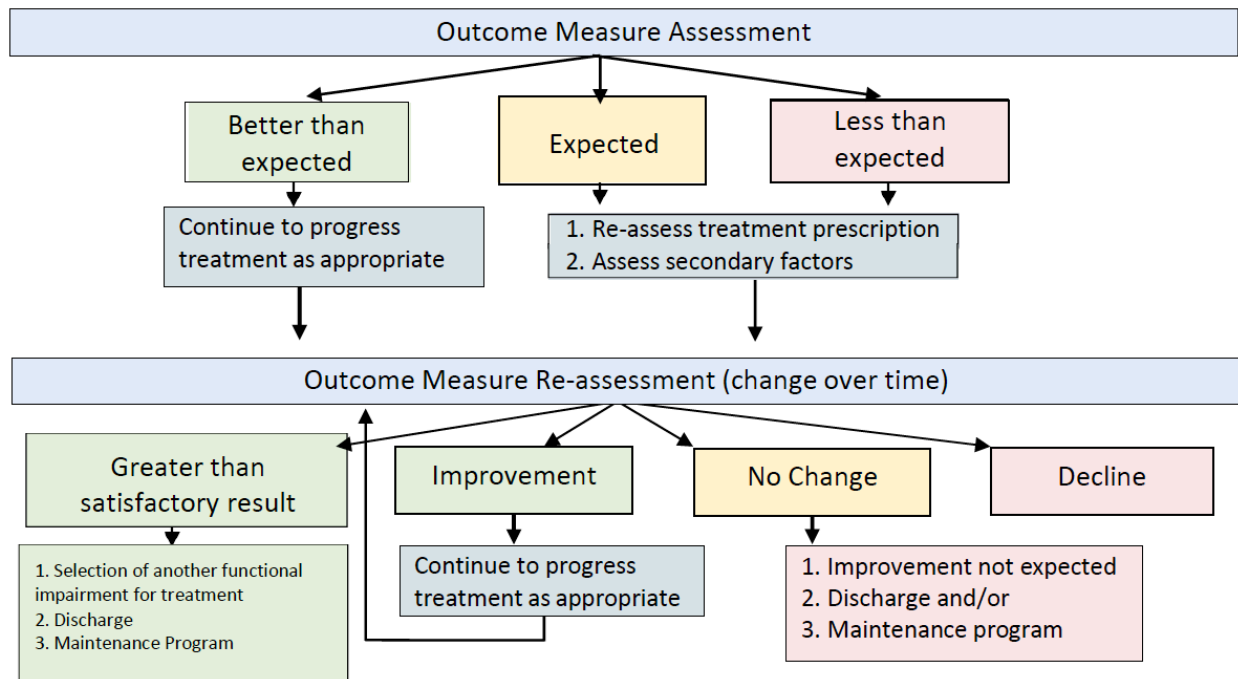


Figure 1. Evidence-based Amputee Rehabilitation (EBAR) Model using outcome measures to guide rehabilitation decision making for people with LLL.

Discussion: The standardization of care within a clinical environment goes beyond uniform application of outcome measures, but can extend to the demonstrating the value of the interventions provided by the clinician, clinic and profession through the use of CER. Outcome measures are more than just a number for documentation, but can be used to guide treatment, monitor a patient's response to care and to identify the most effective treatments for specific patient populations. A systematic approach to EBAR has the potential to demonstrate to patients, referral sources and healthcare reimbursement agencies the value of the care rehabilitation professional provides. A systematic approach to EBAR has the potential to demonstrate to patients, referral sources and healthcare reimbursement agencies the value of the care rehabilitation professional provides.

References

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