

An instrument to map and sustain clinical reasoning: A strategy from a Brazilian community of practice

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Introduction. Primary care (PC) constitutes a recent practice field for occupational therapy (OT). Objective. To understand aspects of OT practice on PC and collaborative processes of practical knowledge construction.

Method: A collaborative action research project was organized through a Community of Practice (CoP), from 2013 to 2017, with the participation of six OTs working in PC, from the inner city of Sao Paulo State, Brazil. The CoP operated in 20 face-to-face meetings, recorded in audio and transcribed and analysed thematically.

Results. An "identity" dilemma was a central challenge identified related to difficulties choosing professional actions (1st stage). Participants chose to investigate one practice aspect: identifying clients needs (2nd stage). This process (3rd stage) enabled the construction of a chart, on a matrix structure, that mapped therapists' reasoning processed. The chart was centred on the actual situations of clients' daily life. It contains 11 items, including (a) client's articulated meanings, (b) meanings identified by other people from the clients' context and (c) therapist reasoning to interpret this information in light of his/her observations.

Conclusion. Professional identity dilemma, very well known as a challenge in OT, was overcome as participants investigated and exchanged interpretations of practice in PC, identified similarities and differences, and constructed an instrument seen as potent and sensitive to their needs, which helped them to better identify client's needs and offer practical client-centred treatment, using a partnership approach, that recognizes dissonances in clients or families discourses and actions, perceived by therapists.