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Applying the Brief International Classification of Function, Disability and Health's Brief Core Set for Hand Conditions in South Africa

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Introduction: The International Classification of Function, Disability and Health (ICF) has made Core Sets for Hand Conditions available to health care providers. This study investigates if the Brief Core set for Hand conditions is relevant in South Africa

Objectives: To explore how Occupational Therapists in South Africa experience the Brief ICF Core Set for Hand Conditions to assess clients with an upper limb condition.

Method: Thirty Occupational Therapists enrolled for a Postgraduate Diploma at a South African University used the Brief ICF Core Set for Hand Conditions to complete an initial and discharge assessment on a client and submitted an unstructured reflection on how they experienced the two assessments.

Results: Most participants experienced the electronic ICF-based Documentation Form cumbersome to complete the first time as they were unfamiliar with the terminology, but found it easier to complete the second time. They requested the additional categories of b820 functions and d920 to be added to the Brief Core Set. Most participants realised that this assessment supplied more holistic information about their patient than their previous assessments.

The diagnosis of the clients were grouped into five clusters. Descriptive statistics were compiled for each cluster and enhanced by their reflections on this ICF Core Set. The descriptive data will be explained at the congress.

Conclusion: The Brief ICF Core Set for Hand Conditions could be used in South Africa with a few additions.