

Title: PREVELANCE OF RETURN TO WORK FOLLOWING TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

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Purpose: This study was designed to determine the prevalence of return to work and investigate the factors that affect the rate of return to work after brain injury. To answer this question the researchers first reviewed existing literature and then created a questionnaire that was used to determine the factors that may affect return to work of clients who received rehabilitation at RH&P following Traumatic Brain Injury.

Relevance: Vocational rehabilitation programme was formally implemented in 2009 at Rita Henn and Partners (RH&P), private rehabilitation centre in Johannesburg for brain injured clients, which resulted in the need to evaluate the RTW of these clients post rehabilitation. In addition, we aim to determine how certain demographic (sex ,age),degree of injury (level of injury, functional dependence ,secondary complications), pre-injury situation (education, skills, type of work), post injury opportunities (vocational counselling, job training, social support, career) and physical environment (workplace accessibility, transport) variables have influenced the RTW of our clients over the past 7 years. RTW is a complex process that results from the integration of personality and characteristics (Chan &Man 2005), we aimed at modified and non modified variables as it is essential to identify the factors that may influence the success of RTW in our population.

Participants: The research will include all subjects that have received rehabilitation at RH&P with traumatic brain injuries such as gunshots, motor vehicle accidents, assault, stabs, etc and non traumatic brain injuries such as benign tumours (excluding malignant brain tumours),encephalitis, meningitis, haemorrhages, infarcts, abscesses ,etc with related ICD10 code noted on the ROMS documentation system between 2010 December and 2011 January. Permission to access the databases and peruse them for patient contact details will be obtained from the management of the institutions

Methods: All subjects with cell phones were invited by text message to participate in the questionnaire and those who do not have cell phones were contacted and invited telephonically. The questionnaire was then completed telephonically by research assistants. In addition the telephone version of the FIM was used to evaluate the clients functional performance.

Data Analysis: Descriptive statistics will be used to determine the frequencies, means, modes and standard deviations. At this stage the statistician is being consulted regarding further data analysis.

Results: To Follow

Conclusions: To Follow.