This project aimed to update and add to the digital and physical resource databases housed within the rehab case management department at The University of Alabama’s Spain Rehabilitation Center. These resources address factors to support safety and the highest level of independence after discharge, address the social determinants of health, and promote occupational justice through accessible housing and transportation, decreased healthcare costs, in-home caregivers, and adaptive equipment, among other barriers to care identified throughout a patient’s stay.

The average total cost of Inpatient Rehabilitation (PRP) in the United States is $45,129. This does not include expenses prior to their PRP stay or any expenses accrued after discharge. While some individuals can utilize health insurance to cover these costs, this is not the case for many Americans. The Commonwealth Fund Commission on a National Public Health System 2022 Biennial Health Insurance Survey found 43.0% of Americans had inadequate health insurance coverage for all or part of the previous twelve months. Within this group, 11% currently held health insurance but had experienced a gap in coverage within the past year, 9% currently had no health insurance, and 23% of people surveyed were uninsured.

The South. Alabama Department of Public Health (2022) states that 17.5% of individuals in Alabama are uninsured. The Survey found 43.0% of Americans had inadequate health insurance coverage for all or part of the year. Individuals can utilize health insurance to cover these costs, this is not the case for many Americans. The gap in coverage within the past year, 9% currently had no health insurance, and 23% of people surveyed were uninsured.

The Occupational Justice Framework framework demonstrates three ways occupational therapy practitioners can advocate – increasing accountability for justice, advocating for institutional changes, and working to develop programs to enrich the lives of those with disability or injury.

The framework used to guide this project was the Model of Occupational Empowerment, which correlates adverse social determinants of health such as poverty, abuse, or poor socioeconomic status with occupational deprivation among all populations.

Introduction

Methods

- This project consisted of four stages.
- In the first stage, the investigator will conduct a retrospective chart review of patients seen at Spain Rehabilitation Center from February 2023 to July 2023. This review consisted of identifying general patient demographics, such as diagnoses, insurance status, preferred patient language, discharge location, and stated discharge concerns. Data was grouped by these demographics, and the percentage of total patient cases for each demographic was found.
- In the second stage of the project, the investigator reviewed the current database of post-discharge handouts utilized at Spain Rehab. Data was collected on the name of the resource, diagnoses and demographics addressed, language of the resource, location of the resource (city, county, state, or national), and date last updated. This review was conducted on both the digital database located on the Spain Rehabilitation OneDrive as well as the resources in the filing cabinet located in the case management office. After collecting data on the resources and handouts, the investigator input data into Qualtrics, and resources were sorted into categories.
- The third stage of the project involved cross-referencing the data from stage one and stage two. The investigator compared demographic percentages to the number of resources for that specific demographic. This allowed the investigator to identify which patient areas contained the highest gap in coverage or the most out-of-date resources. After identifying these gaps, demographics were prioritized based on need to provide a system for stage four.
- Stage four made up the majority of this project. Using the order created in stage three, the investigator verified availability and details of current resources. This verification was primarily done via internet searches; however, phone calls were utilized if needed. When available, resources in languages other than English were added to meet the needs of the stated population. After filling in the noted gaps for one section, the investigator moved on to the next section in the prioritized list. This continued until the entire database was updated. No data or identifiable information was passed to another individual.

Results

- In the first stage, the investigator will conduct a retrospective chart review of patients seen at Spain Rehabilitation Center from February 2023 to July 2023. This review consisted of identifying general patient demographics, such as diagnoses, insurance status, preferred patient language, discharge location, and stated discharge concerns. Data was grouped by these demographics, and the percentage of total patient cases for each demographic was found.
- In the second stage of the project, the investigator reviewed the current database of post-discharge handouts utilized at Spain Rehab. Data was collected on the name of the resource, diagnoses and demographics addressed, language of the resource, location of the resource (city, county, state, or national), and date last updated. This review was conducted on both the digital database located on the Spain Rehabilitation OneDrive as well as the resources in the filing cabinet located in the case management office. After collecting data on the resources and handouts, the investigator input data into Qualtrics, and resources were sorted into categories.

Discussion

- The Model Systems National Data and Statistical Center.
- Streamlined system for healthcare professionals to organize and share community resources

Conclusion

- Lack of standardized assessment to identify patient needs
- Response time of community resources

References

- Model Systems National Data and Statistical Center
- Streamlined system for healthcare professionals to organize and share community resources

Acknowledgement & Contact information

Rachel Summerlin | rsummerlin@uab.edu

Thank you to UAB Spain Rehabilitation Center, Jil Sea, and the Rehab Case Management team for the resources provided to complete this capstone project.