

Wheelchair Training Program (WTP) for Rehabilitation Specialists

Program Coordinator:

Dr. Hassan Izzeddin Sarsak, PhD, OT
Head of Occupational Therapy Program
Assistant Professor
Batterjee Medical College
Saudi Arabia, Jeddah
Cell: 00966543535190
E-mail: hassan.sarsak@bmc.edu.sa, sarsakhassan@gmail.com

Time: 10:00 am - 03:00 pm

Duration: 2 consecutive sessions; 10 contact hours (theoretical, practical)

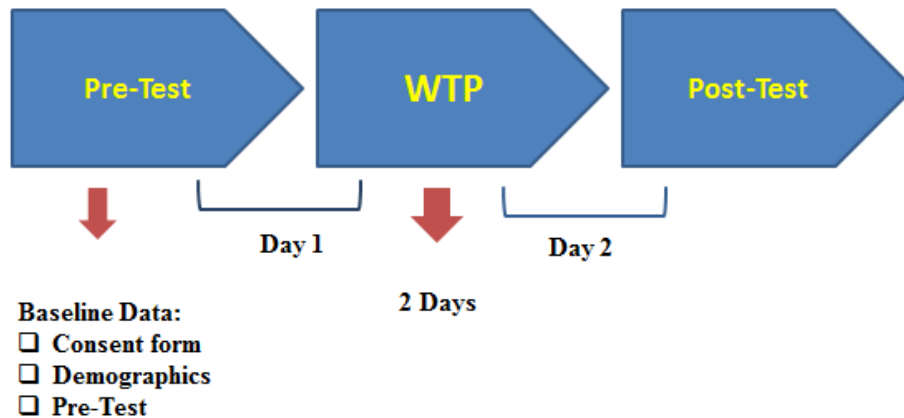
Location: TBD

Texts: All program materials / modules will be assigned for review at appropriate times during the program.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the Wheelchair Training Program (WTP) is for rehabilitation specialists (OT, PT, OP, RT, etc.) to develop knowledge and hands-on skill in the process of identifying and providing wheeled mobility and seating assessments/interventions to people of all ages and disability type. The program builds on the World Health Organization (WHO) training packages and other educational and clinical resources. The program will be carried out specifically through a case based and evidence-based practice learning approach. Therapists are required to attend labs and work with clinical faculty. Theoretical classes will be followed by seminars/labs where cases will be discussed. Readings will be assigned on daily basis and materials will also be referred to for specific modules.

Procedure of the WTP:



PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this program, therapists will show a good understanding of their role in promoting functional performance in terms of independence, safety, and quality through the selection and use of appropriate Durable Medical Equipment and properly fitted wheelchairs, and any other wheeled mobility device.

Upon completing the program, therapists are expected to:

- For therapists, to develop knowledge and hands-on skill in the process of identifying and providing wheeled mobility and seating interventions to people of all ages and disability type.
- Develop fundamental knowledge and the minimum skills required by personnel involved in wheelchair service delivery

In addition, the WTP future mission will be focusing at:

- Integrating the WTP into the regular rehabilitation training programs and rehabilitation disciplines (Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Orthotics and Prosthetics, etc.).
- Launching an outreach campaign to raise local awareness about quality wheelchair services, and the availability of the WTP
 - Target of these awareness campaigns will be clinical, research, and academic institutions/settings.
- Inclusion of wheelchair users into the WTP, by:
 - Having a training on the use of their wheelchairs
 - Better understanding and meeting their needs
 - Conducting focus groups and development of satisfaction surveys

WTP TOPICS:

The program provides fundamental training in wheeled mobility and seating assessments and interventions. The content includes the following modules:

Topic / Module
1. Seating biomechanics
2. Postural supports
3. Manual, power wheelchairs
4. Seat functions
5. Wheelchair functional outcomes (i.e., FEW tools)
6. Clinical Implications
7. OT role in wheelchair assessments and prescription
8. Accessibility issues
9. Wheelchair adjustments
10. Wheelchair fitting "Customization"

WTP: Teaching Methods / Strategies:

- Evidence-based practice learning
- Case-study approach
- Clinical scenarios
- Interactive discussions
- Direct instruction, PowerPoint Presentations, and handouts
- WHO training/educational resources
- Group work
- Experiential and blended learning

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

Therapists are required to attend theoretical and practical sessions, complete assigned readings prior to each session, participate in discussions, lead session discussions related to readings and cases, complete written assignments, and conduct oral case presentations.

REQUIRED MATERIALS / EQUIPMENT:

- Classroom (ideal # students: 35-40)
- Data-show set (computer, projector, speakers)
- Hallway for wheelchair assessments/measurements/exercises
- Manual wheelchairs (#: 6-8)
- Tape measures (#: 10)
- Toolbox (stopwatches, duck tapes, screwdrivers, wrenches)

GRADING:

Grading will be based on the following basis:

The therapists will:

- attend session
- actively participate in client services
- actively participate in discussions
- complete readings
- answer questions related to program materials and cases
- lead discussions
- demonstrate proficiency at an entry level within this field
- provide input to other team members
- able to locate, synthesize, and present information
- pass the WTP posttest (paper-based exam at the end of the program; multiple choice questions)
- able to accurately answer questions in an oral manner

PROGRAM OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of the WTP, it may provide:

- A better understanding of wheelchair users needs, wheeled mobility assessment, and seating interventions
- Enabling therapists to better understand the person-wheelchair-environment match
- Improving the clinical practice for future wheeled mobility and seating interventions through the introduction of the WTP
- Correctly applying fundamental assessment and provision of wheeled mobility and seating interventions
- Developing skills as a wheelchair professional and evidence-based practitioner
- Enhancing quality of wheelchair service provision
- Improving independence, safety, and quality of everyday functional performance for wheelchair users who are the real motivation behind all of this
- Positive significant impact on wheelchair users, practitioners and suppliers
- Certificate of completion