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Guidebook for Occupational Therapy for End-of-Life Care

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A Guidebook for Occupational Therapy in End-of-Life Care

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BACKGROUND

- Patients at the end-of-life (EoL) experience decline in body functions, performance skills, and performance patterns, serving as barriers to occupational participation and engagement (AOTA, 2011; Martin & Herkt, 2018).
- Patients at the EoL desire continued occupational engagement despite declines, however, this desire is unfulfilled (Keesing & Rosenwax, 2011).
- The role, scope, and delivery of OT in EoL care are widely misunderstood by healthcare professionals, patients, families, caregivers, and OT students and practitioners (Keesing & Rosenwax, 2011; Knecht-Sabres et al., 2019).

PROBLEM

Insufficient education and training for OT students on the role, scope, and delivery of OT services in EoL care contributes to a significant gap in OT practice and influences the limited presence of OT practitioners in EoL care settings, resulting in underutilization of OT services and failure to meet the occupational needs of patients at the EoL.

PURPOSE

To provide education and training for OT students and practitioners to *recognize, fulfill, and advocate* for their role in EoL care.

METHODS

Data Gathering Phase

- Clinical observation & experience
- Topic-specific meetings & discussion groups
- **Death Doula Certification**
- **AOTA-Accredited End-of-Life Certification**
- Guidebook development

Review Phase

- Guidebook completion & review

Revision Phase

- Collaboration with:
- EoL care professionals
 - OT practitioners
 - OT educators
 - OT in EoL topic expert
 - Writing professionals

Dissemination Phase

- Guidebook dissemination

DISSEMINATION

- iLearn at USAHS presentation
- Student Occupational Therapy Association
- Submission to AOTA Special Interest Sections Quarterly Practice Connections publication
- Potential future dissemination: AOTA poster presentation/ TOTA CEU

GUIDEBOOK CONTENTS

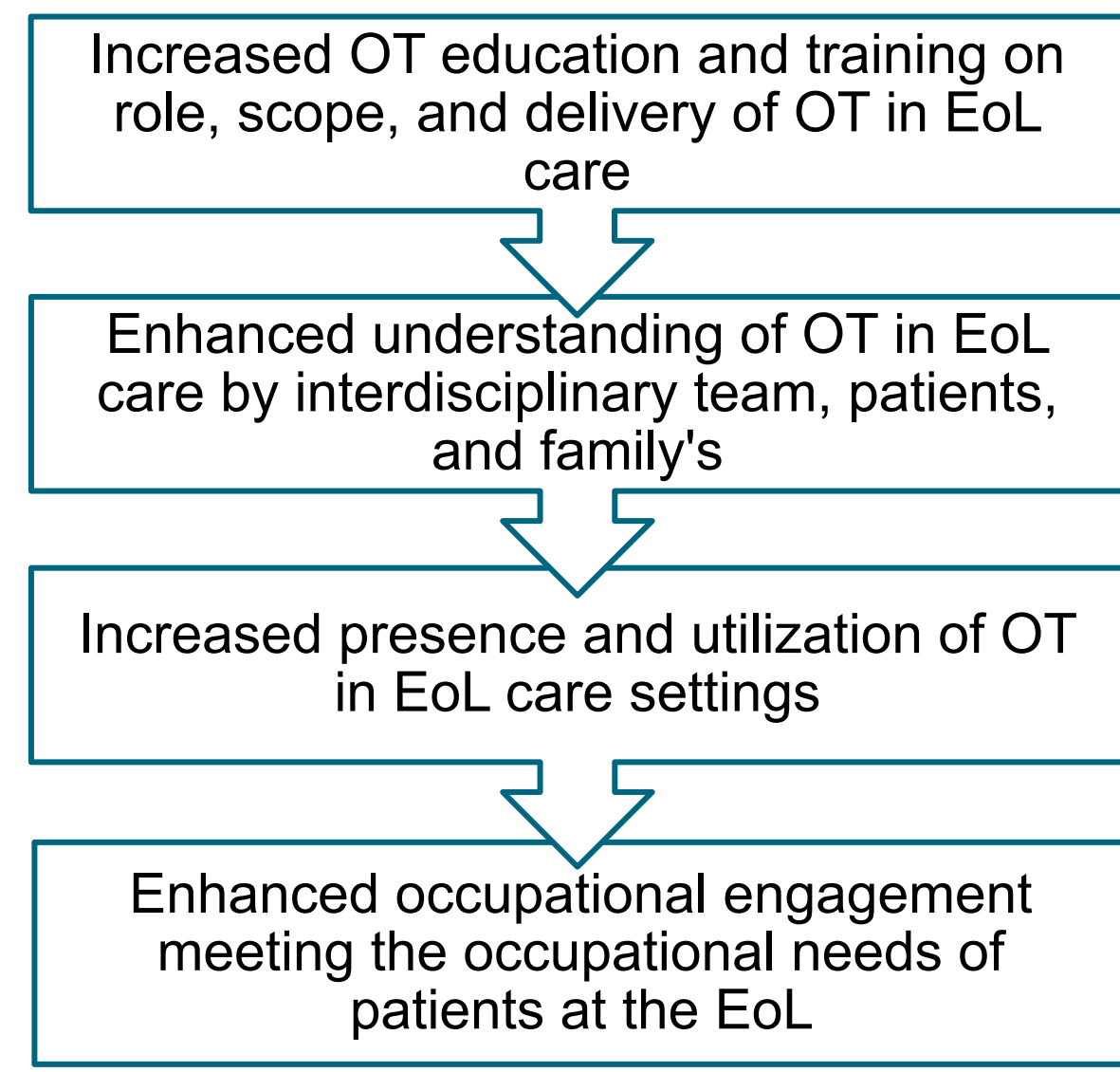
Section 1: End-of-Life Care

- Hospice vs. Palliative Care
- End-of-Life Care Settings
- Hospice Appropriate Patients
- Medicare Hospice Benefit
- Interdisciplinary Team
- Factors of Care
- Common Diagnoses
- Stages of Death and Dying
- Common Medications
- Cultural Considerations

Section 2: OT Process

- Role of OT in EoL Care
- Theoretical Practice Models
- Evaluation
- Assessments
- Goal Writing
- Difficult Conversations
- Approach to Treatment
- Intervention
- Medical Equipment & Assistive Technology
- Outcomes

OUTPUTS



Guidebook



References