

FRAMEWORK FOR EVIDENCE-BASED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PRACTICE The process of evidence-based practice is essentially the same for occupational therapy as for other health disciplines. Although not represented in the framework, evaluation of this process is undertaken to determine improvement in relevant outcomes and to identify factors that will make the process more effective, drawing on concepts presented by Bennett and Glasziou (1997), Law et al. (1996), and Sackett, Richardson, Rosenberg & Haynes, (1997). Clinical reasoning is used to determine whether the evidence 'fits' with each feature of the client's context (person, occupation and environment). This framework presents evidence-based practice as a process that follows a cycle stemming from clinical decisions that need to be made in all stages of the occupational therapy treatment process. Clinical questions are identified that reflect the information needed to make clinical decisions, and which take into account the specific client or group of clients being treated, as well as the context in which treatment occurs. However, some differences in its application arise from the differing practice domains and theoretical models used. A framework for the use of evidence-based practice in occupational therapy is presented in Fig. As not all studies are well performed, a critical appraisal of the article for its validity and clinical usefulness is important. Clients, and where appropriate families or carers, are actively engaged in the decision making process to determine the action to be taken.