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### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST-LED FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENTS ZERO IN ON MILITARY SKILLS

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Functional assessments are an objective measure of the ability to engage in an activity accurately and in timely manner, considering the physical, cognitive, sensory and psychological demands. They can establish a baseline and be used to propose rehabilitation goals (Hagedorn, 2000).

Functional assessments have long been used with great utility within an acute setting to assess function in support of safe discharges. This approach triangulates what the patient states is their capacity with observed and measure function to complete personal and domestic activities of daily function (P / DADL) tasks. Functional assessments have also been adopted by the Armed Forces to comprehensively assess service personnel in work related tasks that provides clinical evidence to support clinical risk assessments for work and supports more accurate medical grading (Army Medical Employment Policy, 2022). Use of training simulators, with the opportunity to expand to virtual reality and wearable technologies to enhance and better quantify function, is explored.

Occupational Therapists' skills in analysing physical, cognitive and psychological function following injury or illness provides additional evidence that diversifying the Occupational Health team and employing a range of SQEP (suitably qualified and experienced persons) clinicians can be beneficial to the employer and service person (SP). A case study will be used to demonstrate the benefits of functional assessments in terms of qualitative benefits for the SP and the cost benefit to the employer.

References:

AGAI Vol 2, Chapter 78 - Army Medical Employment Policy, 2022 (PULHHEEMS Administration Pamphlet).

Hagedorn, (2000). Tools for Practice in Occupational Therapy, Churchill Livingstone.