

## Editorial - Summer 2022

### Standardize Cognitive Tool Use- OT Professional Responsibility

As summer winds down, we hope you have been able to connect with others, experience adventures of all kinds, and made time to relax and rest. We know the past 2.5 years have had many ups and downs for occupational therapists in acute care. We are encouraged by the resilience and innovation we have seen as the pandemic continues to evolve.

The themes of this issue connect to the initiatives that our profession has provided over the last five years. Many within the profession have advocated for the use of standardized tools to assess functional cognition and have highlighted the unique role of occupational therapy within practice settings, such as acute care. Functional cognition has been a critical initiative that has been supported by policy surrounding the Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation (IMPACT) Act of 2014. Incorporating many domains of cognitive functioning, performance skills, and performance patterns, functional cognition can be described as the cognitive ability to perform everyday tasks (Giles et al., 2020). Practitioners and scholars have been challenged to evaluate functional cognition in a manner consistent with professional practice, demonstrates positive impact on client outcomes, and supports required national quality programs (Giles et al., 2020). Functional cognition has been shown to influence the ability to achieve and maintain community placement and discharge stability and also has a role in preventing failed care transitions (Giles et al., 2020). Developing, validating, and using performance-based assessment for evaluating and addressing functional cognition across practice settings and providing a clearly articulated role in addressing cognition from a functional lens should be a high priority in the profession.

We are excited to share with you the Summer 2022 JACOT Issue. This issue provides a theme of two original research studies that examine considerations for functional cognitive standardized assessment use when evaluating and providing recommendations on performance with occupations, such as medication management or meal preparation. This issue provides evidence into feasibility or reliability considerations when using different approaches to cognitive assessment components that are performance based.

*We challenge our readers to think about their role in developing and using functional assessments to evaluate and address cognition in acute care. We hope the knowledge shared in this issue with help OTs reflect on their current standardized cognitive tool use as well as role in the development of future standardized functional cognitive tools applicable to acute care and aid in the discharge planning from hospital to community.*

Best Regards,

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## References

- Giles, G.M., Edwards, D.F., Baum, C., Furniss, J., Skidmore, E., Wolf, T., & Leland, N.E. (2020). Health Policy Perspectives—Making functional cognition a professional priority. *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 74, 7401090010. <https://doi.org/10.5014/ajot.2020.741002>