



Background

Healthcare Provider Councils of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society are a cohort of regional MS healthcare providers, including rehabilitation specialists, physicians, pharmacists, and others, who develop programs to educate their MS professional counterparts. Functional rehabilitation focuses on improving or maintaining the ability to perform successfully and safely at home and work and is a central component of comprehensive care for people with MS. Healthcare providers understand that people with MS need improved MS-focused rehabilitation services. In response, the Councils developed an educational initiative for rehabilitation professionals across the country. Concurrently, the Society met the standards as an American Occupational Therapy Association approved provider and secured continuing education credits through local state physical therapy approved providers.

Live Virtual Rehab CEU



(top left) Meredith Drake, PT, DPT, NCS, Johns Hopkins
(top right) Carleigh Dabritz, MS OTR/L, CPAM, Johns Hopkins
(bottom left) Alexius Sandoval, MD, Johns Hopkins
(bottom right) Victoria Pavelko, MS CCC-SLP Virginian Rehab & Wellness Inc

Objectives

To offer professional education programs accessible to rehabilitation providers with limited knowledge, skills, and experience in treating patients with MS and to improve care for people with MS.

Methods

Three Councils delivered rehabilitation programs using three educational modalities: on demand, virtual live didactics with breakout sessions by discipline, and learning through case studies. Programs covered an overview of MS, comprehensive care, rehabilitation assessment and intervention, exercises, improving brain health, and resource information.



Module IV - Rehabilitation Assessment (50 mins)

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Additional Article:
Selecting Rehabilitation Outcome Measures for People with Multiple Sclerosis - International Journal of MS Care, 2015

Results

Over 150 rehabilitation professionals participated in one or more of the programs. For the percentage of participants who responded, 85% planned to change practice or behavior, 97% said they had improved knowledge of MS care, 90% had an improved attitude towards caring for people with MS, and 81% said they would refer a friend or colleague to the Society.

Conclusion

Professional education for rehabilitation in MS is crucial for continued high-quality MS care and this program served as a fundamental resource for rehabilitation professionals to learn from experts in the field.

“Being able to view the entire scope of MS in terms of common symptoms, management, and interdisciplinary approach”

“Helped me better evaluate what our SLP and OT programs are doing when I audit their charts and be able to give some recommendations to them since I’m a PT”

“I plan to utilize the best practice via literature provided to target common impairments I see in the PT clinic including gait, strength, and fatigue deficits. I also will utilize the bank analogy for fatigue and implement different cooling strategies I learned in this course!”

“I appreciated breaking out into our respective disciplines to improve usefulness and targeted information. It was important for me to hear about different aspects of treating individuals with MS including parameters, treatment ideas, cooling techniques, etc”

Consolidated Results

