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**Occupational Therapy’s Role in Helping Individuals With SPMI Gain and Sustain Employment**

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**Occupational Therapy’s Role in Helping Individuals With SPMI Gain and Sustain Employment**

**Jill Blackstock, MOT/S & Emile Castonguay, MOT/S**

**Susan Noyes, PhD, OTR/L & Jesica Michaud, MOTR/L**

**PIO Question:**
Does including occupational therapy services as part of an interdisciplinary mental health team help clients with serious and persistent mental illness to gain and sustain employment?

**Clinical Bottom Line:**
- Helping people with SPMI gain and sustain employment is specifically targeted within the scope of OT as outlined in the OTPF.
- Evidence supports Individual Placement and Support as the most effective employment intervention. OTs are effective in working with this intervention.
- OTs are effective in bridging the gap between a clinical and vocational focus on mental health teams.

**SPMI represents the population of individuals with serious and persistent mental illness.**

**Employment Interventions**
- Supported
- Employment
- IPS
- Just Right Challenge
- Coping Skills
- Environment
- Context

**Occupational Therapy**
- Focus on meaningful occupation
- Client-centered
- Environment
- Performance
- Evidenced-Based
- Assessments

**Gaining and sustaining employment is the end goal. Including OT as part of the interdisciplinary team yields positive outcomes.**

**Limits Used:**
- Peer Reviewed
- OT Focused articles
- Related to Employment
- Individuals with SPMI
- Working Age participants

**TRI-County Mental Health Services**

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE**