

# The Sibley Report

December 2002

*... the place to find valuable information to help make your job – and your life easier! If you have a topic idea or any other suggestions, please give our Editor - Angie Catenaro - a call. Sibley & Associates is a national disability management firm with a decade of experience, nearly 300 consultants/staff and state-of-the-art technology. Our customers benefit from all the advantages a large company has to offer...while also benefiting from the “small business” customer service philosophy of our dedicated Insurance Services Division.*

## **The Benefits of Early Occupational Therapy**

### **Intervention for your Spinal Cord Injured Clients**

In the case of spinal cord injury management, it is very beneficial to request an Occupational Therapist to assist as early as possible in the rehabilitation process. Whether the intervention is in a hospital setting to address positioning, mobility, and discharge planning, or in the community setting to assist with or to assess community accessibility, treatment availability and home modifications, the skills and expertise of an Occupational Therapist can greatly help your spinal cord injury (SCI) clients.

For SCI individuals, the Occupational Therapist's approach to assessment and treatment is multi-faceted and can be beneficial throughout all stages of recovery.

Please be sure to see the December 2002 issue of Without Prejudice for our complete article that outlines how early referral to an Occupational Therapist can help your SCI clients throughout the Acute Care Stage of Injury, Hospital Recovery Stage, and Rehabilitation Stage.

Occupational Therapists are trained to assess and treat individuals' functional level related to completing daily activities. The purpose of Occupational Therapy is to maximize an individual's abilities, by minimizing his/her disabilities.

Please also see the attachment for tips on how to make sure you select the most suitable Occupational Therapist to assist your SCI clients.

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