

# Investigating Therapy Participation and Engagement Outcome Measure Reports by Music Therapists and Physical Therapists Co-Treating in Acute Care

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## Study Objective:

To perform a qualitative analysis of the documentation practices of physical therapists (PT) and music therapists (MT) co-treating in the acute care setting. Specifically, this study aimed to investigate (1) whether the individual therapists recorded patient participation (engagement and refusals) using clinical narrative or outcome measures; and (2) determined if any similarities or differences could be determined regarding what is currently and consistently being captured among the two professions.

## Design:

Retrospective database analysis and chart review; and semi-structured interview.

## Setting:

Patient rooms of a university-affiliated hospital in the acute care setting.

## Measurements:

The records of patients (excluding prisoners, pregnant women, and children less than 18 years old) who received one or more PT/MT co-treatment efforts, at the University of Kentucky Medical Center's acute care hospital from January 1, 2013 to December 17, 2015, were reviewed. Five electronic medical charts were chosen to review, and interviews with the clinical collaborators were conducted for each subject. Similarities and differences of documentation practices were established to determine the specific aims.

## Main Results:

Due to the retrospective nature of this study, the PTs' documentation practices of participation, engagement and refusals occurred in clinical narrative. Although PTs' document certain outcome measures (inclusive of distance walked, time tolerated on the tilt table, etc.), these cannot reliably be used to determine the efficacy of the addition of music therapy due to fluctuating medical statuses for the current patient population in an acute care setting. Notably, the MTs' documentation method that aided the reviewer most in understanding patient response was the clinical narrative section of the documentation. Music therapy used descriptive outcome measures (pre-post treatment patient affect), as well.

## Conclusions:

The qualitative clinical narratives described the benefit of adding MT to the PT treatment session. Further research should be conducted in a prospective, controlled-trial design to begin to determine the efficacy of MT/PT co-treatments when evaluating patient clinical outcome measures.

**Key Words:** multidisciplinary, inter-professional, traumatic brain injury, stroke