Optimizing Functional Restoration Programs for Chronic Pain



OUTCOMES

Steven Moskowitz, MD

D Senior Medical Director, Paradigm Outcomes

Fernando Branco, MD

Medical Director, Midwest Employers Casualty Company

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	✓ 2 Q&A – All (0)	
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Our Presenters

Dr. Steven Moskowitz



Dr. Fernando Branco



- Senior medical director for Paradigm's pain program
- Physiatrist with 30 year experience
- 30 years experience in managed care and program development
- Medical Director for Midwest Employers Casualty Company
- MD with specialty in physical medicine and rehabilitation, pain management and addiction medicine
- 30 years experience in rehabilitation and pain management

Optimizing Functional Restoration Programs for Chronic Pain

Today's Webinar Objectives

Our conversation centers on four primary goals.



- 1. Evaluate and identify *effective functional restoration* programs
- 2. Learn how to *prepare an injured worker* for a functional restoration plan
- 3. Recognize *key challenges* functional restoration must overcome for successful outcomes
- 4. Detect red flags and *avoid less effective* programs

Functional restoration defined

- Basic principles of functional restoration
- What is a functional restoration "program"?
 - ODG or ACOEM definition
 - Chronic Pain Management Program (CPMP)

What makes it a program vs a service?

- Interdisciplinary goals, coordination, communication
- Appropriate equipment and resources
- Outcome driven and outcomes data
- Objective clinical measures
- Stable resources



Case example - Evelyn

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- 30-year-old female, very active
- Full time chef in a restaurant
- May 2007 during a break, Evelyn went outside and fell down a few steps
- She ends up with her right leg caught between stair bars
- Patient was taken to ER and immediately diagnosed with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome





Case example - Evelyn



Past Medical History:

- Two MVAs in 1991 & 2001
- S/P right Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) repair in 2001
- 2x S/P right knee arthroscopic surgery in 2000 and 2006
- Learning disabilities
- Concussion as a child



Case example - Evelyn

By 2012:

- Multiple sympathetic blocks
- Spinal cord stimulator
- Cane, walker and wheelchair
- OxyContin, Oxycodone, Lyrica, Zanaflex, Baclofen,
 Klonopin, Compazine, Zofran, Reglan and Colace
- 2012: 11 hospital visits in a period of two months with severe nausea and vomiting
- Bilateral lower extremities spasms
- Severely depressed and anxious
- Severe sleep disturbance

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Pain pump was recommended





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Is this the right program for Evelyn?



Per ODG Guidelines

- High dependence on healthcare system (CRPS)
- Severe deconditioning
- Continued use of prescription meds
- Psychosocial sequelae
- Other treatment strategies not working
- Risk of invasive procedures

Expanded Criteria

- Inaccurate diagnosis
- High dose opioids
- Escalating polypharmacy
- Severe functional disability
- Escalating procedures
- Poor outcomes
- Case intransigence
- High behavioral issues
- High MSA

Six steps must be followed



Steps to a Successful Functional Restoration Referral

- 1. Secure an agreement to participate with the injured worker
- 2. Develop a program selection criteria
- 3. Manage participation (getting injured worker to participate and stay)
- 4. Review the curriculum
- 5. Measure outcomes
- 6. Manage the transition back into the community

Injured worker participation



Step 1: Injured Worker Agreement to Participate

- Cognitive behavioral techniques (e.g., TTM Stages of Change)
- Setting expectations
- Agreement of treating MD
- Locating a new MD
- Family involvement
- Logistical issues (e.g., childcare, pet care, transportation)

Case example - Evelyn



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Step 1: Injured Worker Agreement to Participate

- Referred to intense functional restoration program
- Strong resistance from patient and attending physician
- Months of preparation and delays by patient and attending physician



Selection criteria based on IW needs



Step 2: Program Selection Criteria

- Diagnosis specialization and clarification
- Structure (inpatient vs outpatient)
- Detoxification (including polypharmacy reduction)
- Restoration of function
- Local resource vs. distant

Case example - Evelyn

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Step 2: Program Selection Criteria

- Locating the right program for Evelyn based on needs
 - CPRS diagnosis clarification
 - Needs 24/7 structure (inpatient)
 - Needs detoxification expertise and commitment
 - Needs aggressive functional rehabilitation
 - Nothing near her home
- Programs not appropriate for Evelyn
 - Nearby local outpatient functional rehabilitation
 - Inpatient detoxification program
 - CRPS specialty pain program and interventional center



Program selected: Rosomoff Pain Center





Principles for participation



Step 3: Managing Participation in the Program

- Getting injured worker to participate and stay
- The "program curriculum"
 - What happens?
- Discharge criteria
 - When are they ready to leave?
- Transition back into their community
- Outcomes

Case example - Evelyn



Dr. Branco

Step 3: Managing Participation

- Arrives with with mother and father
 - Family support and enablers
- Angry and uncooperative
- "Fell" twice from her wheelchair
 - No witnesses and no injuries
- Demanding higher amounts of medications
 - Narcotics, sedatives and nausea meds
- Refusing to participate
 - Alleging being forced to be there and her doctor did not "approve" Functional Restoration



Review the course



Step 4: The Curriculum

- Diagnosis clarification
- Detoxification and polypharmacy reduction
- Restoration of function
- Decreased reliance on the healthcare system

Case example - Evelyn

Step 4: The Curriculum

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- Diagnosis was clarified with hands on and detailed physical examination
 - Doctors experienced on CRPS
- Disease conviction was addressed since admission
- Tapering of the medications was introduced on admission
 - Started on the second week after trust was built
- Medication conviction was addressed during admission
 - Reinforced by entire multidisciplinary team
- Functional restoration achieved with direct involvement with patient
 - 1:1 treatment for 8 hours/day
- As function improved, mood, sleep and endurance improved





Measure results



Step 5: Tracking Outcomes

Programs should monitor and document:

- Participation
- Performance
- Behavior
- Medical and detailed functional progress
- Urine drug monitoring

Outcomes to avoid:

- Leaving against medical advice
- Long-term opioid maintenance therapy
- Addition of compensable diagnoses
- "Relapse" to prior behavior
- Mismanagement of "re-injury"
- Return to prior enablers

Case example - Evelyn

Step 5: Tracking Outcomes

- Slowly started to participate
- Four weeks of treatment
 - Three inpatient and one outpatient
- Admitted June 4, 2012
- Family response managed
- Graduated June 30, 2012

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• Discontinued all medications except Lyrica

o Lyrica discontinued in August

- Going to gym 5 days/week
- Full release to work October 2012





Discharge criteria

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- Goals achieved
- Discharge plan in place



- Intractable lack of compliance
- Disruptive behavior
- Lack of progress
- Departure AMA
- Illegal activity
- Acute medical illness





Dr. Moskowitz





Manage transition



Step 6: Transition Back into the Community

- A new primary treating physician
- Immediate follow-up post discharge with discharge summary
- Immediate commencement of gym program
- Short course of transitional CBT
- Opioids non-certified, prior physician non-certified
- Functional restoration program communication and follow-up
- Readiness to respond to a "relapse"

Case example - Evelyn



Step 6: Transition Back to the Community

- Patient returned to Functional Restoration Center for a post-discharge assessment
 - One month and three months post DC
- CBT started
 - Patient changed counselors per her request as he was not CBT oriented
- Gym membership
- One month follow up
 - Evelyn was walking one mile and sometimes running eight miles
 - o She injured her ankle and treated it with modalities and ice
 - o Continued exercising
- After pregnancy, decided to stop all meds
 - However, she continued to use her SCS at times against Rosomoff's advice
 - Doctor continued to negatively influence her, but patient was able to move on with her life regardless



The value proposition



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Case example - Evelyn

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Case Settled February 2013

- MSA \$227,000
- Indemnity \$54,000
- Avoided pain pump (\$226,000)
- Stopped medications (\$888,600)
- (\$1.1M) avoided future medical costs on the MSA alone
- Lifetime medical exposure was \$3M+







Case Management Considerations

Functional restoration summary



Functional restoration = restoration of function

- 1. UR guidelines are helpful, but this is a *CM process*
- 2. Choosing the best program depends on *matching program with needs*
 - Needs can include diagnosis clarification, detoxification, behavioral rehabilitation, structure/reinforcement and distance
- 3. The program must be able to *address and decrease polypharmacy, excessive medical treatments, function*
- 4. The *return on investment* can be impressive

Review the six steps



Steps to a Successful Functional Restoration Referral

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- If the CCMC survey does not pop up, you may access the survey from: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/functionalrestoration
- Tip: If your work computer has blocked Survey Monkey, access the link via your home computer.

Question and Answer Session

Submit your questions in the Q&A panel on the right of your screen.

Dr. Steven Moskowitz



Dr. Fernando Branco



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