Outline

• Evidence-based practice – new scrutiny in O&M
• What is meant by O&M?
• How does O&M work?
  – Client-centred O&M & power
  – Community model of O&M practice
  – Safety, risk & environmental complexity
What is O&M?

- Greater/other than mobility + orientation
- Any waking action, within and between ADLs
- Professional practice
- Visible elements:
  - posture, balance, gait
  - self-protection, roads
  - mobility aids
- Invisible/tacit elements:
  - family & cultural expectations
  - interests, motivations, priorities, power
O&M has changed

1940s
Rehabilitation for blinded war veterans\(^1\)
- men
- under 30
- 57% blind
- long cane training
- focus: independence

2015
Re/habilitation services for low vision or blindness\(^2\)
- men, women, children
- multiple disabilities
- > 90% low vision
- unique contexts/needs
- focus: self-determination
Client-centred O&M?

Stakeholders separated by
- confidentiality
- privacy legislation

Panopticon model prison
- late 18th century
- Jeremy Bentham
- Port Arthur – Separate Prison
Power – clinical & functional

Clinic
- professional owns space
- client might own choices

Real-world contexts
- Power relationships are complex
- O&M clients ready for change
- Don’t always know way forward
- Choices influenced by many
Community model of O&M practice

- Relationships fluid, not fixed
- Long term or finite
- Reflexive – cycle of action and reflection
- Relationship web of varying densities
Safety and risk

Middle Ages\(^5\)
- risks = acts of God (floods, fires, earthquakes)

Enlightenment
- shift from communal to individual

Now\(^6\)
- personal choice...responsibility
  - occupational health and safety
  - duty of care
  - liability and litigation
Risk in O&M

- Critical incidents are rare
- Success-based sequence of instruction
- Discovery-learning
- Power continually renegotiated – “Dignity of risk”
- Calculated risk
- Risk Ax requires taking risks
## O&M Environmental Complexity Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Static, uninhabited</th>
<th>Dynamic, social</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No movement</td>
<td>Pedestrian-paced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Level 1: Bounded, predictable, no surprises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Level 2: Obstacles and/or gradient; circumnavigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple</td>
<td>Level 4: Path obstructed; crowds; continual wayfinding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In summary

Effective O&M action
• is supported by an intricate network of relationships
• is located in a broader cultural context

Social rules
• help to determine travel complexity
• impact on decisions about safety and risk

O&M intervention equips clients to
• claim power
• evaluate real risk
• make informed decisions about their own O&M action
Questions?

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References