Conducted a focus group to discuss challenges in the treatment of pediatric rehabilitation. Collected ongoing/iterative feedback from stakeholders to refine treatment protocols and improve care.

Objectives

- To describe the process for developing guidelines/policy for concurrent treatment in pediatric rehabilitation.
- To share concurrent treatment guidelines and tools for pediatric rehabilitation services.

Process

- Conducted a focus group to discuss challenges encountered when providing concurrent therapy.
- Identified the need for clarification of terminology and the development of practice guidelines and family information materials.
- Reviewed literature on the topics of interest.
- Reviewed corporate guidelines (FCM 1997) as specific to issues.
- Collected ongoing/iterative feedback from stakeholders through email and meetings.

Guiding Values and Practices

- Each family is unique.
- Families work in partnership with service providers to make informed decisions about the services and supports.
- Respectful, supportive and collaborative care and specific and general information are provided.

Relational Centred Care

- Relationships are central to care and a source of satisfaction and positive outcomes for families and practitioners.
- Four dimensions: Client ↔ practitioner, practitioner ↔ practitioner, community ↔ practitioner, practitioner ↔ self.

Professional Colleges

- Regulatory health professional colleges state that concurrent treatment must be appropriate, compatible, and done with consultation and coordination between professionals.
- There should be no unethical duplication of services.

Practice Principles

- Evidence based practice.
- Consideration is given to all domains of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health with emphasis on the "I" words – Independence, Function, Family, Fun, Friends, and Future.

Guiding Principles

- Autonomy – respect the right of families to make their own decisions.
- Benefits – do what is good for the greatest number of people.
- Non-malfeasance – do no or the least possible harm.
- Justice – do what is fair and equitable.

Why is Concurrent Treatment Required?

- Concurrent treatment is when more than one professional provides services simultaneously to a child and/or their family. This may happen when a child sees a private therapist in addition to their therapist at the Children’s Treatment Centre.
- Concurrent treatment is when therapy is provided by more than one therapist, for the same issues, over the same period of time. This may happen when a child sees a private therapist in addition to their therapist at the Children’s Treatment Centre.

Potential Benefits of Concurrent Treatment

- Therapists at McMaster Children’s Hospital respect your choice to work with private therapists while receiving our services, however it is important for you to be open about your involvement. We will ask you to consent to communication between your McMaster Children’s Hospital therapists and your private therapist. This allows everyone involved with your child’s care to have a positive relationship with each other. It is also a requirement of the Regulated Health Professions College under which therapists are licensed.
- Goals, roles, and treatments will be discussed. This will ensure safe, efficient, and compatible treatment that is in the best interest of your child. If we try to communicate with your private therapist and he/she does not respond, we will discuss this with you and develop a plan. We will also let you know if we have concerns about whether the treatment approaches are compatible. In some situations, treatment may have to be put on hold temporarily until proper communication or planning takes place.

Definition of Concurrent Treatment

- Concurrent treatment is when services are provided by more than one professional, in different settings, for the same issues, over the same period of time. Different types of concurrent treatment include the following:
  - Duplicate Treatment – Treatment from professionals of the same discipline, in different settings, for the same issues and/or towards the same goals. For example – a therapist working in a children’s treatment centre and a privately funded therapist.
  - Dual Treatment – Treatment from professionals of the same discipline, in different settings, for issues not addressed at the children’s treatment centre. For example – a therapist at a children’s treatment centre and a therapist in a school health program.
  - Complementary Therapy – Therapy that may be considered a “mainstream” intervention, but is not practiced traditionally in a children’s treatment centre. For example – acupuncture.
  - Alternative Therapy – Therapy that is not or not yet accepted as a “mainstream” intervention. It may be practiced in non-traditional clinical settings but is not currently considered evidence based or best practice within children’s treatment centres. For example – hyperbaric oxygen or cranial sacral massage.

Concurrent Treatment: Information for Families Working with Private Therapists

What is Concurrent Treatment

Concurrent treatment occurs when two or more therapists are providing services, or therapy, to the same child at the same time. This may happen when a child sees a private therapist in addition to their therapist at the Children’s Treatment Centre.

How is Concurrent Treatment Coordinated?

The Therapists at McMaster Children’s Hospital respect your choice to work with private therapists while receiving our services, however it is important for you to be open about your involvement. We will ask you to consent to communication between your McMaster Children’s Hospital therapists and your private therapist. This allows everyone involved with your child’s care to have a positive relationship with each other. It is also a requirement of the Regulated Health Professions College under which therapists are licensed.

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Family Education

- Concurrence of services, including therapy provided by more than one professional, is allowed only with the written consent of the parent(s) or legal guardian.
- No concurrent treatment is allowed without the written consent of the parent(s) or legal guardian.
- All families have the right to be informed of their child’s concurrent treatment needs and the ability to consent or decline.

CONCURRENT TREATMENT ALGORITHM FOR DUPLICATE TREATMENT

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Practice Principles</th>
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Questionable Duplicate Treatment

Cases should be addressed on an individual basis through consultation with appropriate colleagues. co-workers discipline leads managers interprofessional practice leaders clinical professional ethicists risk management regulatory professional colleges A plan will be developed in collaboration with the family and documented appropriately.