

## ARTICLES USING FOTO DATA

### The Focus On Therapeutic Outcomes (FOTO) Outpatient Orthopedic Rehabilitation Database: Results of 1994-1996

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The Focus On Therapeutic Outcomes (FOTO) outcomes measurement system and database for outpatient orthopedic rehabilitation are described and reviewed. FOTO was created to develop a standardized measurement set for outpatient orthopedic rehabilitation outcomes and for the implementation of a database for outcomes reporting. The article reviews a data sample of more than 24,000 patients collected during 1994-1996 and classified in six impairment categories. The effectiveness and efficiency of 1404 clinicians located in 384 facilities in 34 states are reviewed.

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**Key words:** effectiveness, efficiency, Focus On Therapeutic Outcomes, health status, measurement, orthopedic rehabilitation, outcomes, patient satisfaction, SF-36

Focus On Therapeutic Outcomes, Inc. (FOTO; Knoxville, Tennessee), was created in 1992 from a desire to create a standardized outcome measurement and reporting system for rehabilitation of outpatients with orthopedic dysfunction. The goal of FOTO was to demonstrate rehabilitation effectiveness and efficiency in outpatient orthopedic practice. FOTO is a privately owned outcomes measurement research and data' base company and is independent from providers and payers of outpatient rehabilitation service.

The FOTO orthopedic outcomes measurement system for outpatient rehabilitation comprises patient health status and patient satisfaction measures, reports of the types of clinician treatments performed, and patient demographic and descriptive indicators. There are additional measures that evaluate the level of goal achievement; staffing mix during the episode of care; and efficiency measures of cost, number of visits, and duration of treatment. Referral source and payer source information are included. This article reports specifically on patient health status, patient satisfaction, cost, visits, and episode length observed in a select sample from the FOTO database during 1994-1996.

The FOTO orthopedic outcomes measurement system collects data at the initiation (first visit) and conclusion (last visit) of the rehabilitation episode. Interim data (interval measures) are optional and may be used by the clinician *to* assess progress during rehabilitation.

## **Effectiveness Measures**

The patient health status measure included in the FOTO system is the Medical Outcomes Study SF-36 (Medical Outcomes Trust, Boston, Massachusetts). The patient-reported SF-36 comprises 36 questions and has demonstrated

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