

# **Establishment of a Norwegian health registry of occupational rehabilitation**

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## **Introduction**

Yearly, about 2000 patients participate in vocational rehabilitation/return to work programs in Norway. However, systematic evaluations of the results of participation in occupational rehabilitation on outcome measures for return to work, work-absenteeism and health-related outcomes are missing. Therefore, The National Advisory unit on Occupational Rehabilitation (NK-ARR) wanted to establish a consent-based health registry of occupational rehabilitation with the main purpose to improve the quality of the course of treatment for occupational rehabilitation.

## **Methods**

*Development of the registry:* In cooperation with six rehabilitation institutions\*, NK-ARR developed the health registry of treatment results of occupational rehabilitation (KAR) between 2015 - 2017. The group defined content of the registry and developed and pilot tested four questionnaires for data collection. The questionnaires are incorporated as part of the participating institutions medical examination and responses stored in the medical journal.

*Population:* The participants in the registry are consent competent adults in working age (18 years or older) taking part in occupational rehabilitation programs and are recruited by the participating institutions.

*The registry content:* KAR contains personal data from the consenting patients and background data of the participating institutions and type and duration of the rehabilitation program. The personal information are composed of data from four time points: before- and after rehabilitation and 6 and 12 months follow-up. Personal information are age, gender, education, health, diagnosis, sick-leave, working-conditions, work ability and financial aid schemes.

*Data collection and storage:* All information in the registry is stored at the “Service for sensitive data” (TSD) at the University of Oslo, Norway. The data is collected by the participating institution and the information is sent to the registry at TSD by means of the data collection tool “Nettskjema”.

## **Results**

The registry was opened for data collection in April present year and by date the registry receives data from eight rehabilitation centres and consists of information from 126 participants.

## **Discussion and conclusion**

The data will be analysed and the results presented aggregated on yearly basis by NK-ARR. The participating institutions can use the data from own institution for development and research purposes.

Data in the registry can be lent by research organisations for research purposes.

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