



Impairment in rehabilitation: Specific

Temporal context:
Is structure of time influencing impairment?

- Is the person lacking any opportunity to engage socially or in interesting activities?
- Does the person need an imposed routine to support them?

Personal context:
What influence do beliefs & expectations have?

- Are they contributing to nature or severity of impairments?
- Are impairments leading to incorrect interpretations?
- Can (and should) expectations and beliefs be altered?

Physical context:
Could technological aids or adaptations alter impairment or its effect?

- Can something reduce effect of or risks arising from the impairment?
- Can something prevent occurrence or worsening of impairment?
- Are aids or adaptations causing or increasing an impairment?
- Does use of an aid cause or support an incorrect expectation?

Social context:
Does social context influence nature or severity?

- Are legal or other regulations influencing the presentation?
- Is the social context a stressor causing or exacerbating symptoms?

Social Participation:
Are there causal or consequential links?

- Bodily change causing stigma or embarrassment?
- Are functional impairments directly causing stigma or embarrassment?
- Is nature or extent of social participation contributing to impairment?
- Is being in a 'sick role' leading to some perceived gain?

Type:
What type is it

- Patient experience, reported by the patient (symptoms)
- Clinician labelled, deduced from patient behaviour including self-report and performance on 'tests'
- Externally observed structural change in some part of the body

Treatment:
What is needed?

- Direct, to reduce the experience, usually of pain, distress, or sensory changes
- Direct, for the functional change, to reduce it and/or its consequences
- Direct, to compensate for loss, or reduce risk of further loss

Associated impairments:
Are any expected, do they interact?

- From the same underlying disease
- From some other, known disease
- From some other known cause
- Other impairments, as yet not explained
- Do they interact to increase disability?

Pathology:
Is this accounted for by disease?

- Yes, known disease, no action
- Possibly, disease not diagnosed or confirmed, investigate
- Unlikely, seek other explanation

Disabilities:
Do the identified impairments account for identified disabilities?

- Yes, all as expected
- Disability more than expected; consider other causes for disability
- Disability less than expected; consider cause of impairment