

NeuroRehab Evidence Database

Target Area: Challenging Behaviour

Neurological Group: Traumatic Brain Injury

Giles et al. (2009). Non-aversive treatment of repetitive absconding behaviour in clients with severe neuropsychiatric disorders. *Neuropsychol Rehabil*, 19(1): 28-40.

RoBiNT score - 7/30

Method / Results

Rehabilitation Program

Design

• **Study Type:** SCD. ABCAC design (A=baseline, B=alteration of the evening routine, C=goal-congruent reinforcement program).

- **Population:** n=1. Male, age 50, dementia due to substance abuse and multiple TBI.
- **Setting:** Community facility.

Target behaviour measure/s:

Number of absconding attempts/incidents.

Primary outcome measure/s:

• No other standardised measure.

Results: Following the reimplementation of the goal-congruent intervention, the absconding attempts and incidents fell to zero and with the continuation of the program, absconding behaviour did not recur during patient's further eight months at the facility.

Aim: To eliminate absconding attempts and absconding incidents.

Materials: Not specified in report.

Treatment Plan:

- **Duration:** 5 months.
- **Procedure:** Not specified, but order of phases outlined below.
- Content:
 - 1. Phase 1: Baseline A (months 1-4):
 Medication changes in an attempt to
 address patient's psychosis and to assist
 him to sleep at night. Metal
 reinforcements added to the windows to
 make them more difficult to kick out.
 - 2. Phase 2: Intervention B (months 5 and 6).

 Alteration in evening routine: Providing an ongoing antecedent to remain indoors (patient earned ice-cream for changing into a hospital gown and slippers in the mid-afternoon).
 - 3. Phase 3: Intervention C (months 7-9).

 Decreased restriction and goal-congruent reinforcement program: For each 24-hour period in which patient did not abscond, he would be taken out to purchase a lunch from the local fast-food restaurant for later consumption at the facility.
 - **4.** Phase 4: Baseline A2 (month 10). Treatment withdrawal.
 - 5. Phase 5: Intervention C (months 11-20).
 Reintroduction of the goal-congruent reinforcement program.