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Completing the rehabilitation continuum in UAE: Enabling Community Care &Participation

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It is estimated that at least 10% of the worlds population lives with a disability (1). People with disabilities are among the most vulnerable and least empowered groups in the world. They often experience limited access to health care, education and livelihood opportunities. Rehabilitation can be defined as the restoration, to the maximum degree possible, of an individuals function and/or role, both mentally and physically within their family and social networks and within the workplace where appropriate. Referral to community therapy can be triggered by either post acute or chronic illness.

The main objectives of community care are to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities or impairments; and working with the patient and the community to create positive attitudes towards people with disabilities, to motivate communities to support and encourage participation within the community.

This workshop looks at the current community therapy situation within the UAE and discusses the challenges it is faced with. It discusses the necessity of home modifications and participation and accessibility within the community. The workshop also discusses the cultural nuances within the UAE and how they may impact community rehabilitation. It discusses the availability of support groups within the community and the availability of services which encourage those affected to return to work or productive activity.

There are many international guidelines and pathways developed supporting the implementation of community rehabilitation; during the workshop such international practices are discussed and recommendations are derived from this for the UAE moving forward.

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Notes:

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