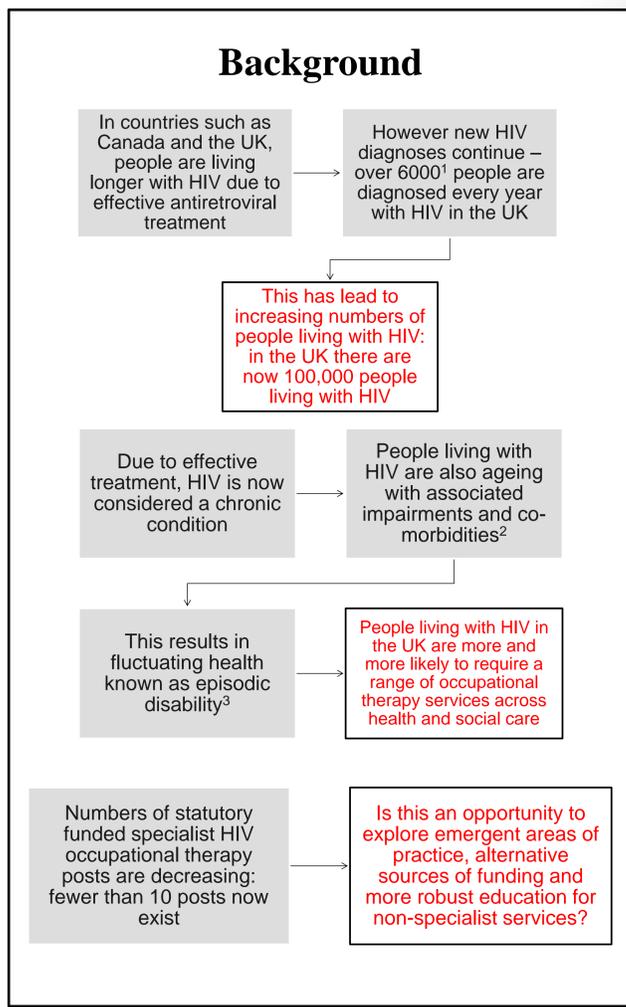


Specialist HIV OTs in the United Kingdom and Canada – a dying breed or a chance for renewal?

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Service Provision

- In the past and currently HIV specialist posts are located within
 - Acute hospitals
 - Community (Social Services and rehabilitation)
 - Community (non-NHS rehabilitation unit)
- NHS and other funding cuts reducing specialist posts
- Limited third sector employment opportunities

Research

- Limited funding opportunities
- One OT engaged in self-funded formal research
- A small number of OTs engaged in workplace audits and service development projects



Service Provision

- Few specialist posts
- Mostly in third sector

Research

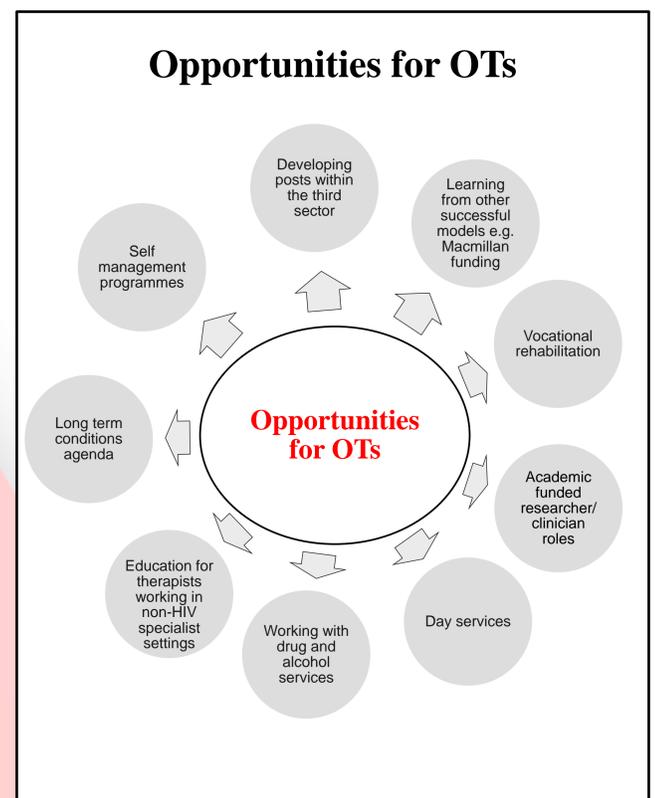
- Strong track record
- Organised infrastructure
- Well developed funding opportunities

The Future of HIV

- Living across the lifespan with HIV
- Uncertain effects of long term HIV and anti-retrovirals on all body systems
- Emerging evidence of HIV associated neurocognitive disorders
- Co-morbidities of ageing and HIV e.g. bone and cardiac health
- Issues for older LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) individuals living with HIV
- Issues for older people from culturally diverse backgrounds living with HIV, particularly in care homes
- Mental health in HIV
- Episodic disability and maintaining work and occupational roles
- Drugs and alcohol in an HIV context
- The challenge of maintaining quality as some services move from HIV specialist to mainstream

CUHRRRC

- In 2009 the Canada-UK HIV Rehabilitation Research Collaborative (CUHRRRC) was established following a meeting at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research
- CUHRRRC members include clinicians, researchers and people living with HIV
- Lead to the inaugural International Forum on HIV and Rehabilitation Research, hosted in Toronto, Canada, attended by over 100 delegates (2013)
- Several UK HIV OTs attended and presented at the Forum
- The OTs also visited public and third sector HIV facilities – St Michael's Hospital and Casey House in Toronto, and the Dr Peter Centre in Vancouver



Delegates at the International Forum on HIV and Rehabilitation Research, Toronto, 2013



Will Chegwidden, OT

Conclusions

- The complexity and challenges faced by people living with HIV are increasing as they age
- Occupational therapy skills in physical, cognitive and psychological assessment and rehabilitation make a valuable contribution to the clinical area of HIV
- With the ever changing funding landscape of the NHS, specialist HIV OT posts in the UK are increasingly rare
- Canadian HIV third sector organisations are increasingly employing OTs and other rehabilitation professionals to meet the complex rehabilitation needs of people living with HIV
- Given resource issues within the UK statutory sector, service provision by third sector organisations may offer additional and alternative opportunities
- Developing roles in emergent areas and creative approaches to funding are vital in ensuring opportunities are not lost for occupational therapy



Elizabeth Stevens, OT

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RHIVA - <http://www.bhiva.org/RHIVA.aspx>
CUHRRRC - <http://cuhrrc.hivandrehab.ca>

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