

USING ICF IN ASSESSING WORK CAPACITY (OWN WORK): EXPERIMENTAL STUDY ON VIDEO TERMINAL WORKERS

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Abstract

Nowadays the majority of work activities require the use of video display unit (VDU). VDU work is known to present risks for visual and postural systems. More risks might come from conditions related to environmental hygiene.

For all these reasons it's important to set an adequate workplace and correct VDU work procedures. In the present study the Authors tested ICF (International classification of functioning, disability and health) on 46 employees of the Workers' Compensation Authority (INAIL) selected from the Regional Direction of Sicily and the Palermo Office and regularly undergoing health surveillance for VDU risks during 2009. The purpose of the study was to analyze VDU work according to recent acquisitions in Occupational Medicine more and more orientated towards the study of the interaction of the worker with the workplace.

This project showed that psychosocial assessment using ICF is an essential tool to describe the worker by using the qualifiers "performance" and "capacity" of specific items that have been considered relevant for VDU work. ICF has been proven useful to define what the worker needs and to set interventions to balance the man-environment interaction.

Using ICF in health surveillance might become a model to take positive actions to set up adequate workplaces to reach both a good balance between the worker and the environment and to set educational prevention plans for personnel.

Key words: International classification of functioning, disability and health, (ICF); video display unit (VDU), Occupational Physician.