Step-by-Step Guide to Putting a Person First
(Why we re-designed our assessment tool)

Why did we need a re-design?
• To have a comprehensive view of the client
• To be more concise but remain objective
• Free up time: less paper work, more direct client care time
• To aid communication within and outside facility
• Bring in line with World Health Organization (WHO) model of health and disability
• Flipped assessment to a bottom-up approach (impairment/activities/participation to participation/activities/impairments)

How did we do it?
• Reviewed other facilities’ assessment forms
• Representation on committee from all disciplines
• Maintain specific expertise areas
• Based on client goals: Expanded COPM template to better address communication challenges and social issues

Outcome:
• Adopted by all disciplines
• Fewer pages
• Less duplication
• More direct client care
• Programs are more complementary and activity/goal-based due to therapists deriving more holistic view of clients’ needs

Challenges:
• Knowing when the document is complete (signing-off)

Results:
- Number of pages of assessment (average)
- Percentage of time spent in direct client care

Pre-interdisciplinary Assessment (2011)
Post-interdisciplinary Assessment (2014)

See client: Develop an understanding of how the client operated and operates in his/her community, emphasizing their life roles and social circle.

Hear client’s goals: COPM guides the conversation in order to identify the priority goals that are relevant to his/her recovery. Goals may be as basic as washing hands, or as complex as playing a round of golf.

Know client’s history: Understand all the factors that influence their current functioning (medical, social, financial, cultural, etc.).

Gather therapy team: Based on the client and his/her goals, the appropriate interdisciplinary team members collaborate, contributing their expertise to the understanding of the complexities of the client.

Use assessment tool: A vehicle to document who the client is and what they wish to accomplish. Discipline-specific assessments augment the understanding of the client and provide opportunity to record change.

Consider client’s injury: Analyze the impact of the client deficits on his/her participation. ARBI recognizes that rehabilitation is part of a journey towards self-discovery and adjustment to disability.

Develop and implement client plan: Use the assessment tool to guide the collaborative plan that includes activity-based rehabilitation and community integration.

Document changes: The tool records the client’s performance while working toward his/her goals and participation in their community.