



Lighthouse Project Hand
Providing health information to key healthcare actors –
in a standardized way, along the continuum of care and
based on the ICF Core Set for Hand Conditions

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With the ICF Hand_A, an ICF-based assessment for hand conditions, data of functioning and environmental factors of patients with hand conditions can systematically be collected and documented in clinical practice using an electronic tool (e-tool). The e-tool also generates structured reports in a standardized way specifying patients' current functioning status and considering additional information, such as ICD-10 diagnoses, treatments performed and patients' future needs. The standardized reports facilitate the sharing of information among key healthcare actors and along the continuum of care of patients with any kind of hand condition.

Introduction

The Lighthouse Project Hand aims to operationalize and implement the Brief ICF Core Set for hand conditions as a monitoring tool in the treatment and rehabilitation of persons with hand conditions in the institutions of the German Statutory Accident Insurance. As a result, ICF Hand_A, an ICF-based assessment for hand conditions covering all the categories included in the Brief ICF Core Set, has been established and implemented in clinical routine practice. By means of an electronic tool (e-tool), standardized data of patients' functioning and environmental factors is systematically collected in the collaborating hospitals. This poster highlights one main feature of the e-tool – the standardized reporting procedure that takes into account the data collected with ICF Hand_A and other information provided to key healthcare actors on patients with hand conditions along the continuum of care.

Methods & Materials

Case history, clinical and data based on the ICF Hand_A are collected using the e-tool integrated in the Clinical Information System (CIS) of the collaborating hospitals. Data collection is performed along the continuum of care, from the acute phase to rehabilitation. The data collected is systematically compiled and supplemented by text modules to generate the standardized reports.

Figure 1: Extract of the e-tool documentation form integrated in CIS to generate the standardized reports.

Results

With the information provided in the standardized reports, patients' current status of functioning as well as changes along the continuum of care can be specified and easily handed out to key healthcare actors, such as resident doctors, therapists as well as insurers, who are involved in the patients' care process.

All reports are generated automatically and structured in a standardized way. Free-text boxes allow the user to add special annotations for the individual patient. First, general data and case history are reported, such as personal data, profession, diagnosis and surgical interventions (Fig. 2). Second, patients' actual functioning status is specified based on data collected with the ICF Hand_A (Fig. 3).

Figure 2: General data and case history comprised in the standardized reports.

In addition, every report contains information about patients' future needs regarding healthcare treatments and services, such as need for assistive devices, adaptation of workplace as well as whether reduction in earning capacity has to be applied. A prognosis with regard to return to work is also provided. One core feature of the report is the at-a-glance illustration of patients' current functioning status as well as progress along the continuum of care.

Graphical processing using symbols, such as colored arrows and smileys, facilitates the reading of functioning data, for example to indicate current functioning status as well as changes over the course of care (Fig. 3).

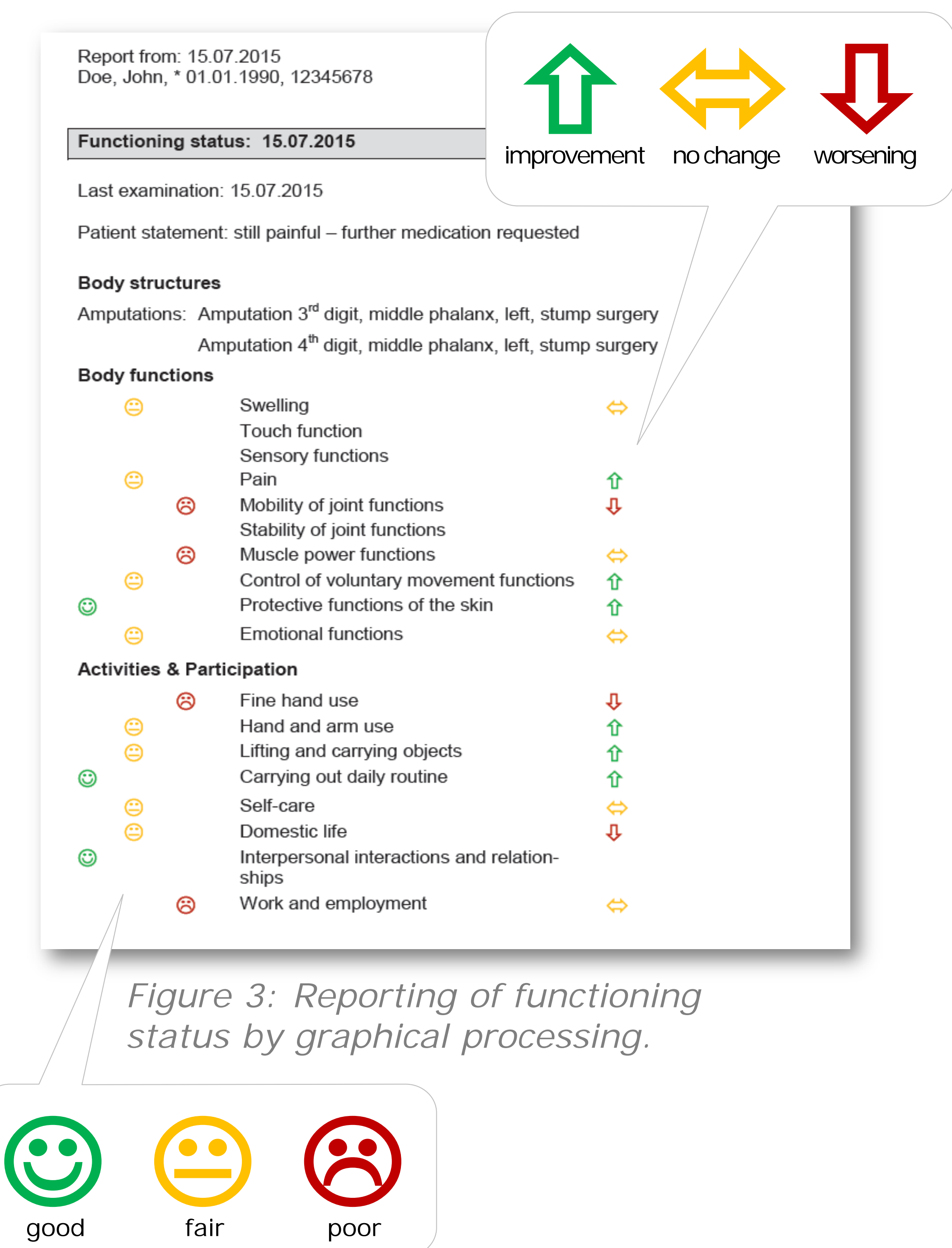


Figure 3: Reporting of functioning status by graphical processing.

Conclusions

Using this automatically generated and standardized report assures an overview on functioning aspects and environmental factors assessed with ICF Hand_A and facilitates the sharing of information among key healthcare actors and along the continuum of care of patients with any kind of hand condition.

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