**Recommendation Title:** Is Gait Analysis Efficacious in Improving Treatment Outcomes?

**Recommendation Code:** A3

**Category:** Validation

**Recommendation**

**Background**

The majority of clinical decisions for improving motor function in individuals with disability are made in the absence of clinical gait analysis. However, a small percentage of rehabilitation professionals (clinicians in the fields of orthopedics, pediatrics, OT, PT, physiatry) routinely utilize gait analysis in their clinical practice. The primary reason for the inconsistent utilization of clinical gait analysis is the lack of efficacy data demonstrating that functional outcomes are improved as a direct result of gait analysis. The consequence of this uncertainty is that individuals with disabilities are either deprived of a useful assessment tool or are subjected to a time consuming and unnecessary evaluation.

**Objectives**

To demonstrate that clinical gait analysis alters treatment decisions so at to improve functional outcomes within specific diagnostic categories.

Research must accomplish the following:

1) Compare and contrast the effectiveness of clinical practice in the presence or absence of gait analysis.

2) Identify which patient categories objectively benefit from clinical gait analysis.

3) Replicate the findings to determine whether the results from particular studies are consistent and generalizable.

**Recommended Actions**

Support research that documents that clinical gait analysis improves functional outcome within specific diagnostic categories. This research is of relevance to NIH, the VA and private funding agencies.