**Research title:**

Implementing routine outcome measurement in an acute mental health unit within rural South Africa.

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**Ethical Clearance:**

Ethical clearance (M140977) was obtained from the University of the Witwatersrand

Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)**.**

**Declaration of interest**

Olindah Silaule (OS) researched literature. OS and Daleen Casteleijn (DC) conceived the study and were both involved in protocol development. OS gained ethical approval and recruited participants. OS conducted data analysis with guidance from DC. OS wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Both authors reviewed and edited the manuscript (and approved the final version of the manuscript). Both authors agree to be held accountable for all aspects of the work. The second author declares that she was the developer of the APOM, the outcome measure used in this study. The first author declares no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, funding and/or publication of this article.

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**Biographical note:**

**Olindah Silaule** is PhD candidate and lecturer at the Occupational Therapy Department of the University of the Witwatersrand. She obtained her master’s degree at the University of the Witwatersrand in 2017. Olindah coordinates the second year undergraduate Mental Health curriculum, involved in masters teaching and supervision. Her research interest is in the quality and efficiency of mental health services for patients and their families. Olindah’s PhD research focuses on developing guidelines for alleviating caregiver burden amongst informal caregivers of persons with severe mental disorders in Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga Province.

**Daleen Casteleijn** is a part time Associate Professor at the Occupational Therapy Department of the University of the Witwatersrand. She supervises PhD and Masters Students. She received the prestigious Vona du Toit Memorial Award in 2012 from the SA Association of Occupational Therapists and recognition for achievements in research from the Faculty of Health Sciences in August 2014. Her research focusses on the measurement of outcomes in patients after rehabilitation. She developed the Activity Participation Outcome Measure (APOM) to track change after occupational therapy intervention in several patient populations.

**Disclosure statement:**

The authors confirm that no financial benefits rose from the direct applications of this research.

**Data availability statement:**

The data that support the findings of this study are available from the first author (OS), upon reasonable request.