

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: This is a professional position involving responsibility for evaluating, planning and providing occupational therapy treatment to patients in a health care facility in accordance with a written prescription or referral from a physician who provides medical direction. The Occupational Therapist is responsible to the facility administrator or designee for the operation of the department. Supervision may be exercised over the work of Occupational Therapy Assistants, Occupational Therapy Aides and clerical employees assigned to the service. Does related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Performs occupational therapy procedures upon the written prescription or referral from a physician, utilizing a creative activity which may be manual, industrial, recreational or educational designed and/or adapted to correct or remedy a disability;

Evaluates the degree of function and disability of patients* unless contra-indicated by professional judgement or a physician's admission notes;

Develops a treatment plan based upon findings, short and long term rehabilitation goals and in accordance with the physician's diagnosis, prescription or referral;

Records on patients'* charts all evaluations, re-evaluations, progress notes, consultations and discharge summaries;

Participates in the selection of personnel in the occupational therapy service, assigns their duties and provides supervision;

Fabricates and applies hand splints, trains patients in the use of adaptive assistive devices and/or self-help techniques to achieve maximum independence;

Participates with other facility personnel in the formulation of total care plans;

Confers periodically with physicians, nurses and support staff regarding all facets of patient care and related activities;

Develops or assists in the development of occupational therapy policies and procedures;

Assists in the development of, and instructs in the facility's in-service education program;

Maintains program records including, but not limited to, the service budget, statistical reports of the frequency and types of treatment as well as number of patients treated.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Good knowledge of the principles, techniques and practices of occupational therapy;

Good knowledge of the operation and minor maintenance of apparatus and equipment used in occupational therapy;

Working knowledge of community resources available to support or supplement the occupational therapy program;
Ability to evaluate, plan and execute treatments for patients;
Ability to plan and supervise the work of others;
Ability to get along well with others;
Physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

*The term "patient" should be changed to "resident" when position is used in health related facilities.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Licensed and currently registered by the New York State Education Department as an Occupational Therapist.

Limited Permits:

Section 7905 (2) of New York State Education Law states, a permittee shall be authorized to practice occupational therapy only under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist or a licensed physician and shall practice only in a public, voluntary, or proprietary hospital, health care agency or in a preschool or an elementary or secondary school for the purpose of providing occupational therapy as a related service for a handicapped child.

Section 7905 (3) of New York State Education law states, a limited permit shall be valid for one year. It may be renewed once for a period not to exceed one additional year, at the discretion of the department, upon submission of an explanation satisfactory to the department for an applicant's failure to become licensed within the original one-year period. A limited permit shall become null and void if and when the holder thereof fails to pass a licensing examination.