

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF CLASS

The OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST conducts in-depth evaluations of residents or patients referred for therapy and develops and provides professional occupational therapy programs for the care and treatment of patients having physical and/or mental disabilities.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

This is a single classification and not currently part of a series of classes.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. Treatment Planning.** Typical tasks: conducts initial evaluation and assessment of residents or patients referred by physician; selects and administers appropriate tests to evaluate resident's or patient's fine motor skills, gross motor skills, perceptual motor skills, and daily living skills; takes joint measurements; identifies individualized goals and develops treatment program for each resident or patient based on results of assessment (program will be carried out by employee, other therapy staff, or patients' families); identifies appropriate therapy technique or activity to achieve goals, equipment or other materials needed, and any other instructions or information necessary to carry out program; conducts regular reevaluation of resident or patient to determine progress and response to therapy; revises program as necessary to achieve goals; may evaluate resident's or patient's need for splints by measuring joints, devising individualized splint for resident or patient, and writing order (to be signed by physician) to have splint made and worn; participates in treatment-team meetings to provide input regarding patient or resident assessment, to discuss treatment program, or to coordinate treatment goals and programs.
- 2. Direct Patient Services.** Typical tasks: instructs residents or patients in activities of daily living such as dressing and feeding; provides hands-on treatment such as range of motion exercises to resident's or patient's upper and lower extremities; designs and builds adaptive equipment to increase resident's or patient's independence in feeding, dressing, or other self-help activities; monitors use of adaptive equipment; adapts prefabricated equipment to meet individual needs; provides consultation to families, direct care staff, other therapy staff, outside agencies, and other professionals regarding appropriate therapy services and techniques for individual residents or patients.
- 3. Case Documentation.** Typical tasks: documents results of initial assessment and evaluation; prepares initial treatment plans; maintains records on residents or patients including description of treatment provided, evaluation of patient's progress in program, and any other information pertinent to treatment of resident or patient; prepares year-end summaries on patients treated.
- 4. Training.** Typical tasks: orients occupational therapy students to occupational therapy program; demonstrates occupational therapy treatment techniques to students and Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants; gives work assignments, provides training, and reviews work.
- 5. Miscellaneous.** Typical tasks: maintains professional proficiency through review of current literature and attending continuing education programs; orders supplies for therapy program.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

Employees in this class have regular in-person contact with patients who have physical and/or mental disabilities to provide evaluation and treatment services. Since Occupational Therapy is part of a multiservice program, these employees participate in treatment-team meetings with physicians, nurses, social workers, and psychologists on a regular basis to coordinate treatment goals and programs. Some employees provide consultation on a regular basis to families of patients, outside agencies, and other professionals regarding appropriate therapy services for patients leaving hospital. Some employees in this class have regular in-person contact with direct care staff to instruct on therapy related activities.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

Employees in this class work under the general supervision of an Occupational Therapy Supervisor or Manager who assigns work verbally and occasionally in writing. Work is reviewed for quality and achievement of treatment goals through weekly meetings, reports, and informal daily review of problem areas and observation of patients' progress.

Employees in this class provide therapy services under State and Federal laws governing patient care and quality assurance standards. These guidelines include the Occupational Therapy Standards of Practice and Ethics, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, National Institute of Mental Health, and patients' bill of rights. Available references and guidelines for decisions regarding daily treatment therapy activities include Administrative Rules and agency policies and procedures manual.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Positions in this class are primarily found in hospitals, clinics, or other health care facilities. They require the willingness to work in the environment associated with the position's location and purpose. In addition, they require the willingness to maintain a sympathetic and understanding attitude towards mentally ill, mentally retarded, handicapped, and/or physically ill patients. Some positions require the willingness to work overtime, on-call, and/or rotating schedules.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES (KSA)

General knowledge of normal and abnormal neurodevelopment.

General knowledge of quality assurance activities, standards, and procedures.

General knowledge of modern principles, techniques, materials, and equipment used in occupational therapy.

General knowledge of anatomy, physiology, kinesiology, physical and psychological pathology, and human development.

General knowledge of State and Federal laws, rules, regulations, standards, policies, and procedures.

Basic knowledge of medical terminology and medical conditions.

Basic knowledge of potential hazards to patients or residents during treatment and necessary precautionary and remedial measures.

Skill in selecting and administering appropriate tests to assess and evaluate residents' or patients' fine and gross motor skills and daily living skills.

Skill in identifying individual goals based on results of evaluation and developing treatment program to fit individual needs of each resident or patient.
Skill in communicating (oral and written) test results, plans, goals, etc.
Skill in problem solving and working independently.

Ability to design and fabricate splints and other adaptive equipment and monitor their use.

Ability to carry out occupational therapy activities on a one-to-one basis or in a group setting.

Ability to prepare written progress and evaluation reports.

Ability to demonstrate techniques of occupational therapy and teach its objectives.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with staff involved in patient treatment activities.

Ability to motivate and sustain patient/resident interest.

Ability to initiate, modify, and terminate treatment activities, plans, and goals.

SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS

Possession of a valid Occupational Therapist License or other valid authorization issued by the Oregon Occupational Therapy Licensing Board.

NOTE: The KNOWLEDGE and SKILLS are required for initial consideration. ABILITIES may be required for initial consideration, at any time during the selection process, or during a trial service period as a final stage of the selection process. Some duties performed by positions in this class may require different KSA's. No attempt is made to describe every KSA required for **all** positions in this class. Additional KSA requirements will be explained on the recruiting announcement.

Adopted 10/88

Revised

Examples of work are typical of duties assigned to this class. No attempt is made to describe every duty performed by all positions in this class.