

## Evaluation or practice by OT without physician prescription

### Can an OT evaluate without a physician prescription?

Occupational therapists are not required to have a physician's prescription to evaluate and treat patients in Oregon when the OT is using a modality defined in the Oregon statute. However, reimbursement agencies may require prescription for reimbursement.

The **Definitions for Occupational Therapy** is in the Statute ORS 675.210 to 675.340:

"Occupational therapy" means the analysis and use of purposeful activity with individuals who are limited by physical injury or illness, developmental or learning disabilities, psycho-social dysfunctions or the aging process in order to maximize independence, prevent disability and maintain health. The practice of occupational therapy encompasses evaluation, treatment and consultation. Specific occupational therapy services includes but is not limited to: Activities of daily living (ADL); perceptual motor and sensory integrated activity; development of work and leisure skills; the design, fabrication or application of selected orthotics or prosthetic devices; the use of specifically designed crafts; guidance in the selection and use of adaptive equipment; exercises to enhance functional performance; prevocational evaluation and training; performing and interpreting manual muscle and range of motion test; and appraisal and adaptation of environments for people with mental and physical disabilities. The services are provided individually, in groups, or through social systems."

**Oregon Administrative Rule** dealing with **Unprofessional conduct** states:

339-010-0020 Unprofessional Conduct

... (2) Unprofessional conduct relating to professional competency includes: . . .

... (d) **Failing to obtain a physicians referral in situations where an OT is using a modality not specifically defined in ORS 675.210(3);** [emphasis added]

The OT and OTA must have the education and experience to perform the occupational therapy services.

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