

QUICK FACT SHEET – OT ASSISTANT SUPERVISION in OREGON

Any person who is licensed as an OTA may assist in the practice of occupational therapy only under the supervision of a licensed OT.

Based on their education and training, OTA's must receive supervision from an OT to deliver occupational therapy services. OTA's deliver occupational therapy services under the supervision of and in partnership with OT's. OT's and OTA's are responsible for collaboratively developing a plan for supervision.

OAR 339-010-0005:

(1) "Supervision," is a process in which two or more people participate in a joint effort to promote, establish, maintain and/or evaluate a level of performance. The occupational therapist is responsible for the practice outcomes and documentation to accomplish the goals and objectives. Levels of supervision:

(a) "Close supervision" requires **daily**, direct contact in person at the work site;

(b) "Routine supervision" requires the supervisor to have direct contact in person **at least every two weeks** at the work site or via telehealth as defined in OAR 339-010-0006(9) with interim supervision occurring by other methods, such as telephone or written communication;

(c) "General supervision" requires the supervisor to have **at least monthly** direct contact in person with the supervisee at the work site or via telehealth as defined in OAR 339-010-0006(9) with supervision available as needed by other methods.

339-010-0035 (4) The supervising occupational therapist shall provide closer supervision where professionally appropriate.

Educational background:

OTA's must be 18 years of age and have an associate degree in Occupational Therapy from an nationally accredited program, which includes at least two months of supervised field work. They must pass the national exam.

Credentials: OTA/L or COTA/L. To maintain "c" in COTA, their NBCOT (National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapy) certification must be active. In Oregon, NBCOT certification is not required but some employers or insurers may require it.

Scope of practice:

The OT must be directly involved in the delivery of services during the initial evaluation and regularly throughout the course of intervention and outcome evaluation.

The Plan of Care (POC) which includes goals, treatment plan and frequency/duration is prepared by the OT. The OTA may not modify the plan of care. However, the OTA may recommend changes to any element of the patient's plan of care and communicate those to the supervising OT, preferably the OT who evaluated the patient in question. OTA's cannot write a plan of care.

It is the responsibility of the OT to determine when to delegate responsibilities to an OTA. It is the responsibility of the OTA who performs the delegated responsibilities to demonstrate service competency.

If an OTA believes a patient is no longer appropriate for inpatient OT services, they must consult with their supervising OT, preferably the OT that evaluated the patient in question. If the OT agrees that inpatient OT services should be discontinued, the OTA is permitted to write a discharge note with the final summary of a patient's functional status.

Documentation Requirements:

It is best practice that OTs should co-sign if there is any changes to plans or goals, or a discharge. It needs to be clear that the decision was made by the OT. If there are notes that are not affected by changes in goals or plans it would not be necessary to co-sign.

If there ever was a complaint, those involved would want to show that the supervision was conducted properly.

Statement of Supervision Form: Before an occupational therapy assistant assists in the practice of occupational therapy, he/she must file with the Board a "statement of supervision" of the licensed occupational therapist who will supervise the occupational therapy assistant. It is the responsibility of the OTA to submit this form to the OTLB prior to starting work. It must be signed by the OT who will supervise.

An OTA can have one primary supervisor who works in several sites or can have more than one OT supervisor. Many OTA's have several supervisors because they work in different facilities.