

TYPES of OTA SUPERVISION

OAR 339-010-0005: Definitions

(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.

The specific frequency, methods, and content of supervision may vary by practice setting and are dependent upon the

- (1) complexity of client needs,
- (2) number and diversity of clients,
- (3) skills of the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant,
- (4) type of practice setting,
- (5) requirements of the practice setting, and
- (6) other regulatory requirements.

More frequent supervision may be necessary when

- (1) the needs of the client and the occupational therapy process are complex and changing,
- (2) the practice setting provides occupational therapy services to a large number of clients with diverse needs, or
- (3) the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant determine that additional supervision is necessary to ensure safe and effective delivery of occupational therapy services.

Specific examples of an OTA needing "Close" supervision:

A therapist who is new to a particular task. A new graduate. An experienced practitioner who has switched to a new specialty.

Specific examples of an OTA needing "Routine" supervision:

Once a new practitioner has increased his/her level of expertise and knowledge of the task at hand, he/she may be able to transition from "close" to "routine" supervision.

Specific examples of an OTA needing "General" supervision:

A skilled OTA that has worked in the area of practice for many years, and has been observed in a treatment session by their OT Supervisor. If the OT is confident in with the OTA, and the OTA has demonstrated service competency, they can go forward with once per month check in meetings.