# **OTA Supervision**

State	Statute or Regulation <sup>1</sup>
Alabama	Statute: §34-39-3  (6) OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT. A person licensed to assist in the practices of occupational therapy under the supervision of, or with the consultation of, a licensed occupational therapist whose license is in good standing.
	Regulation: 625-X-801 Supervision Of Licensed Occupational Therapy Assistants.  (1) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist in the practices of occupational therapy under the supervision of, or with the consultation of, a licensed occupational therapist whose license is in good standing.  (2) "Supervision" means a collaborative process for the responsible periodic review and inspection of all aspects of occupational therapy services. Responsibility of supervision is shared between the supervising occupational therapist(s) and the occupational therapy
	assistant(s) and/or all unlicensed personnel involved with the provision of occupational therapy services, including aides and students.  (3) An occupational therapist may assign an increased level of supervision if necessary for the safety of a patient or client. The levels of supervision are:  a. Direct Supervision: the supervising occupational therapist is in the immediate area of the occupational therapy assistant while performing supportive services.
	<ul> <li>b. Close Supervision: the supervising occupational therapist provides initial direction to the occupational therapy assistant and daily contact while on the premises at least 50% of the occupational therapy assistant's direct patient care hours per month.</li> <li>c. General Supervision: the supervising occupational therapist has face-to-face contact with the occupational therapy assistant at least once every 30-calendar days, with the supervising occupational therapist available by telephone, electronic, or written communication.</li> <li>(4) Supervision Ratios:</li> </ul>
	An occupational therapist may supervise up to three (3) full-time occupational therapy assistants, but never more than two (2) occupational therapy assistants who require "direct" level of supervision. The total number of supervised occupational therapy assistants, occupational therapy personnel on a limited permit, and non-licensed occupational therapy personnel (including any occupational therapy students, occupational therapy assistant students, licensee applicants required to perform a preceptorship, and/or aides) may not exceed five (5) without prior Board approval. The Board may permit the supervision of a greater number by an occupational therapist if, in the Board's opinion, there would be adequate supervision to protect public health and safety.  (5) Only a licensed occupational therapist shall:
	<ul> <li>a. Prepare a written initial treatment plan prior to implementation by the occupational therapy assistant, initiate or re-evaluate a client or patient's treatment plan, or authorize in writing a change of a treatment plan</li> <li>b. Delegate duties to a licensed occupational therapy assistant, designate an assistant's duties, and assign a level of supervision; and</li> <li>c. Authorize a patient discharge.</li> <li>(6) A licensed occupational therapy assistant shall not:</li> <li>a. Evaluate or develop a treatment plan independently;</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> DISCLAIMER: This chart is provided for informational and educational purposes only and is not a substitute for legal advice or the professional judgment of health care professionals in evaluating and treating patients. Contact your state licensing board, committee, or agency with any questions regarding this information or to verify the accuracy of this information.

- b. Initiate a treatment plan before a client or patient is evaluated and a written treatment plan is prepared by an occupational therapist;
- c. Continue a treatment procedure appearing harmful to a patient or client until the procedure is reevaluated by an occupational therapist; or
- d. Continue or discontinue occupational therapy services unless the treatment plan is approved or re-approved by a supervising occupational therapist.
- (7) A supervising occupational therapist shall supervise a licensed occupational therapy assistant as follows:
  - a. Supervision should be "Direct" at the discretion of the supervising occupational therapist.
  - b. Supervision should be "Close" if the occupational therapy assistant has less than 12 months of experience.
  - c. Supervision should be at least "General" if an occupational therapy assistant has more than 12 months of experience.
  - d. For occupational therapy assistants employed by state agencies and those employed by public schools and colleges of this state who provide screening and rehabilitation services for the educationally related needs of the student, the "Direct" and "close" supervision mandate based on work experience does not apply. In these instances, supervision should be at least "General".
  - e. The following levels of supervision are minimal. An occupational therapist must assign an increased level of supervision if the occupational therapy assistant is new to a practice setting or particular skill. An occupational therapist must assign an increased level of supervision if necessary for the safety of a patient or client.
  - f. All occupational therapist(s) who delegate to occupational therapy assistants must participate in the supervision of that occupational therapy assistant.
  - g. Occupational therapy assistants working part-time should have no less than one hour of direct supervision per calendar month, and meet all other supervision requirements within this section.
  - h. Occupational therapy assistants who work with more than one employer must notify the board of the supervisor(s) for each employer.
  - i. The occupational therapist shall ensure that the occupational therapy assistant is assigned only those duties and responsibilities for which the assistant has been specifically educated and which the occupational therapy assistant is qualified to perform.

#### **Alaska**

#### Statute: 08.84.190

(4) "occupational therapy assistant" means a person who assists in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of an occupational therapist;

#### Regulation: 12 AAC 54.810.

#### SUPERVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS.

- (a) An occupational therapy assistant shall work under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist. To meet this supervision requirement.
  - (1) at least once per month the occupational therapist supervising the licensed occupational therapy assistant shall be physically present while the occupational therapy assistant being supervised implements a treatment plan with a patient; and
  - (2) the occupational therapist supervising the occupational therapy assistant shall be available for consultation with the occupational therapy assistant being supervised, through telephone consultations, written reports, or in person conferences.
- (b) If the licensed occupational therapist agrees to supervise an occupational therapy assistant, the occupational therapist shall
  - (1) determine the frequency and manner of consultations, taking into consideration the treatment settings being used, patient rehabilitation status, and the competency of the occupational therapy assistant being supervised;
  - (2) fully document the supervision provided, including a record of all consultations provided, and maintain those records at the occupational therapy assistant's place of employment; and
  - (3) countersign the patient treatment record each time the occupational therapist supervising the occupational therapy assistant is physically present and directly supervises the treatment of a patient by the occupational therapy assistant being supervised.

#### Regulation: 12 AAC 54.890.

- (1) "continual on-site supervision" means the supervising occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant
  - (A) is present in the department or facility where services are being provided;
  - (B) is immediately available to the non-licensed personnel being supervised; and
  - (C) maintains continual oversight of patient-related duties performed by the non-licensed personnel;
- (6) "supervision" means
  - (A) the licensed occupational therapist will be present whenever a patient is evaluated, a treatment program is established, or a treatment program is changed; and
  - (B) the licensed occupational therapist is present to personally review the diagnosis of the condition to be treated, to authorize the procedure, and before dismissal of the patient, to evaluate the performance of the treatment given.

#### Arizona

# **Statute:** Arizona Revised Statutes Title 32, Chapter 34, Article 1 32-3401 Definitions.

- 7. "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person who is licensed pursuant to this chapter, who is a graduate of an accredited occupational therapy assistant education program, who assists in the practice of occupational therapy and who performs delegated procedures commensurate with the person's education and training.
- 9. "Supervision" means the giving of instructions by the supervising occupational therapist or the occupational therapy assistant that are adequate to ensure the safety of clients during the provision of occupational therapy services and that take into consideration at least the following factors:
  - (a) Skill level.
  - (b) Competency.
  - (c) Experience.
  - (d) Work setting demands.
  - (e) Client population.

# Regulation: Arizona Administrative Code Title 4, Chapter 43, Article 1 R4-43-101. Definitions.

- 11. "Supervision" means a collaborative process for the responsible periodic review and inspection of all aspects of occupational therapy services. The following levels of supervision are minimal. An occupational therapist may assign an increased level of supervision if necessary for the safety of a patient or client. The levels of supervision are:
  - a. "Close supervision" means the supervising occupational therapist provides initial direction to the occupational therapy assistant and daily contact while on the premises.
  - b. "Continuous supervision" means the supervising occupational therapist is in the immediate area of the occupational therapy aide performing supportive services.
  - c. "General supervision" means the supervising occupational therapist has face-to-face contact with the occupational therapy assistant at least once every 30-calendar days on a per patient or client basis while on the premises, with the supervising occupational therapist available by telephone or by written communication.
  - d. "Minimal supervision" means the supervising occupational therapist has face-to-face contact with the occupational therapy assistant at least once every 30-calendar days while on the premises.
  - e. "Routine supervision" means the supervising occupational therapist has face-to-face contact with the occupational therapy assistant at least once every 15-calendar days on a per patient or client basis while on the premises, with the supervising occupational therapist available by telephone or by written communication.

# Regulation: Arizona Administrative Code Title 4, Chapter 43, Article 4

#### R4-43-401. Supervision of Occupational Therapy Assistants

- A. Only a licensed occupational therapist shall:
  - 1. Prepare an initial treatment plan, initiate or re-evaluate a client or patient's treatment plan, or authorize in writing a change of a treatment plan;
  - 2. Delegate duties to a licensed occupational therapy assistant, designate an assistant's duties, and assign a level of supervision; and
  - 3. Authorize a patient discharge.
- B. A licensed occupational therapy assistant shall not:
  - 1. Evaluate or develop a treatment plan independently;
  - 2. Initiate a treatment plan before a client or patient is evaluated and a treatment plan is prepared by an occupational therapist;
  - 3. Continue a treatment procedure appearing harmful to a patient or client until the procedure is reevaluated by an occupational therapist; or
  - 4. Continue or discontinue occupational therapy services unless the treatment plan is approved or re-approved by a supervising occupational therapist.
- C. A supervising occupational therapist shall supervise a licensed occupational therapy assistant as follows:
  - 1. Not less than routine supervision if the occupational therapy assistant has less than 12 months work experience in a particular practice setting or with a particular skill.
  - 2. Not less than general supervision if the occupational therapy assistant has more than 12 months but less than 24 months of experience in a particular practice setting or with a particular skill.
  - 3. Not less than minimal supervision if an occupational therapy assistant has more than 24 months of experience in a particular practice setting or with a particular skill.
  - 4. Increased level of supervision, if necessary, for the safety of a patient or client.

#### **Arkansas**

# <u>Statutes:</u> Code of Arkansas Title 17, Subtitle 3, Chapter 88 17-88-102 Definitions.

(7) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the frequent and regular supervision by or with consultation with an occupational therapist, whose license is in good standing. The definition of "frequent" and "regular" will be established by the Arkansas State Occupational Therapy Examining Committee;

# <u>Regulation:</u> Arkansas Administrative Rules Regulation No. 6 6.2 FREQUENT AND REGULAR SUPERVISION DEFINED:

As specified in the Occupational Therapy Practice Act 17-88-102, (3) an "occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the frequent and regular supervision by or in consultation with an occupational therapist whose license is in good standing.

"Frequent" and "regular" are defined by the Arkansas State Occupational Therapy Examining Committee as consisting of the following elements:

- (A) The supervising occupational therapist shall have a legal and ethical responsibility to provide supervision, and the supervisee shall have a legal and ethical responsibility to obtain supervision regarding the patients seen by the occupational therapy assistant.
- (B) Supervision by the occupational therapist of the supervisee's occupational therapy services shall always be required, even when the supervisee is experienced and highly skilled in a particular area.
- (C) Frequent/Regular Supervision of an occupational therapy assistant by the occupational therapist is as follows:

- 1) The supervising occupational therapist shall meet with the occupational therapy assistant for onsite, face to face supervision a minimum of one (1) hour per forty (40) occupational therapy work hours performed by the occupational therapy assistant, to review each patient's progress and objectives.
- 2) The supervising occupational therapist shall meet with each patient and the occupational therapy assistant providing services on a monthly basis, to review patient progress and objectives.
- 3) Supervision Log. It is the responsibility of the occupational therapy assistant to maintain on file signed documentation reflecting supervision activities. This supervision documentation shall contain the following: date of supervision, time (start to finish), means of communication, information discussed, number of patients, and outcomes of the interaction. Both the supervising occupational therapy assistant must sign each entry.
- 4) Each occupational therapy assistant will maintain for a period of three (3) years proof of a supervision log, should it be requested by the Board for audit purposes.
- (D) The occupational therapists shall assign, and the occupational therapy assistant shall accept, only those duties and responsibilities for which the occupational therapy assistant has been specifically trained and is qualified to perform, pursuant to the judgment of the occupational therapist.
  - (1) Assessment/reassessment. Patient evaluation is the responsibility of the occupational therapists. The occupational therapy assistant may contribute to the evaluation process by gathering data, and reporting observations. The occupational therapy assistant may not evaluate independently or initiate treatment prior to the occupational therapist's evaluation.
  - (2) Treatment planning/Intervention. The occupational therapy assistant may contribute to treatment planning as directed by the occupational therapist. The occupational therapist shall advise the patient/client as to which level of practitioner will carry out the treatment plan.
  - (3) Discontinuation of intervention. The occupational therapy assistant may contribute to the discharge process as directed by the occupational therapist The occupational therapist shall be responsible for the final evaluation session and discharge documentation.
- (E) Before an occupational therapy assistant can assist in the practice of occupational therapy, he or she must file with the Board a signed, current statement of supervision of the licensed occupational therapist(s) who will supervise the occupational therapy assistant. Change in supervision shall require a new status report to be filed with the Board, prior to starting work and when supervision ends.
- (F) In extenuating circumstances, when the occupational therapy assistant is without supervision, the occupational therapy assistant may carry out established programs for up to thirty (30) calendar days while appropriate occupational therapy supervision is sought. It shall be the responsibility of the occupational therapy assistant to notify the Board of these circumstances.
- (G) Failure to comply with the above will be considered unprofessional conduct and may result in punishment by the Board.

# California

# <u>Statute:</u> California Code, Business & Professions Code Chapter 5.6 2570.2

- (i) "Occupational therapy assistant" means an individual who is licensed pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, who is in good standing as determined by the board, and based thereon, who is qualified to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under this chapter, and who works under the appropriate supervision of a licensed occupational therapist.
- (j) "Occupational therapy services" means the services of an occupational therapist or the services of an occupational therapy assistant under the appropriate supervision of an occupational therapist.

#### 2570.3

(a) No person shall practice occupational therapy or hold himself or herself out as an occupational therapist or as being able to practice occupational therapy, or to render occupational therapy services in this state unless he or she is licensed as an occupational therapist under the provisions of this chapter. No person shall hold himself or herself out as an occupational therapy assistant or work as an

occupational therapy assistant under the supervision of an occupational therapist unless he or she is licensed as an occupational therapy assistant under the provisions of this chapter.

- (j) "Supervision of an occupational therapy assistant" means that the responsible occupational therapist shall at all times be responsible for all occupational therapy services provided to the client. The occupational therapist who is responsible for appropriate supervision shall formulate and document in each client's record, with his or her signature, the goals and plan for that client, and shall make sure that the occupational therapy assistant assigned to that client functions under appropriate supervision. As part of the responsible occupational therapist's appropriate supervision, he or she shall conduct at least weekly review and inspection of all aspects of occupational therapy services by the occupational therapy assistant.
  - (1) The supervising occupational therapist has the continuing responsibility to follow the progress of each client, provide direct care to the client, and to assure that the occupational therapy assistant does not function autonomously.
  - (2) An occupational therapist shall not supervise more occupational therapy assistants, at any one time, than can be appropriately supervised in the opinion of the board. Three occupational therapy assistants shall be the maximum number of occupational therapy assistants supervised by an occupational therapist at any one time, but the board may permit the supervision of a greater number by an occupational therapist if, in the opinion of the board, there would be adequate supervision and the public's health and safety would be served. In no case shall the total number of occupational therapy assistants exceed twice the number of occupational therapists regularly employed by a facility at any one time.

#### 2570.13

- (a) Consistent with this section, subdivisions (a), (b), and (c) of Section 2570.2, and accepted professional standards, the board shall adopt rules necessary to assure appropriate supervision of occupational therapy assistants and aides.
- (b) An occupational therapy assistant may practice only under the supervision of an occupational therapist who is authorized to practice occupational therapy in this state.
- (c) An aide providing delegated, client-related supportive services shall require continuous and direct supervision by an occupational therapy assistant.

# Regulations: California Code of Regulations Title 16, Division 39, Article 9 § 4181. Supervision Parameters

- (a) Appropriate supervision of an occupational therapy assistant includes, at a minimum:
  - (1) The weekly review of the occupational therapy plan and implementation and periodic onsite review by the supervising occupational therapist. The weekly review shall encompass all aspects of occupational therapy services and be completed by telecommunication or onsite.
  - (2) Documentation of the supervision, which shall include either documentation of direct client care by the supervising occupational therapist, documentation of review of the client's medical and/or treatment record and the occupational therapy services provided by the occupational therapy assistant, or co-signature of the occupational therapy assistant's documentation.
  - (3) The supervising occupational therapist shall be readily available in person or by telecommunication to the occupational therapy assistant at all times while the occupational therapy assistant is providing occupational therapy services.
  - (4) The supervising occupational therapist shall provide periodic on-site supervision and observation of client care rendered by the occupational therapy assistant.
- (b) The supervising occupational therapist shall at all times be responsible for all occupational therapy services provided by an occupational therapy assistant, a limited permit holder, a student or an aide. The supervising occupational therapist has continuing responsibility to follow the progress of each client, provide direct care to the client, and assure that the occupational therapy assistant, limited permit holder, student or aide do not function autonomously.

- (c) The level of supervision for all personnel is determined by the supervising occupational therapist whose responsibility it is to ensure that the amount, degree, and pattern of supervision are consistent with the knowledge, skill and ability of the person being supervised.
- (d) Occupational therapy assistants may supervise:
  - (1) Level I occupational therapy students;
  - (2) Level I and Level II occupational therapy assistant students; and
  - (3) Aides providing non-client related tasks.
- (e) The supervising occupational therapist shall determine that the occupational therapy practitioner possesses a current license or permit to practice occupational therapy prior to allowing the person to provide occupational therapy services.

#### §4182

- (a) The supervising occupational therapist shall determine the occupational therapy treatments the occupational therapy assistant may perform. In making this determination, the supervising occupational therapist shall consider the following:
  - (1) the clinical complexity of the patient/client;
  - (2) skill level of the occupational therapy assistant in the treatment technique; and
  - (3) whether continual reassessment of the patient/client status is needed during treatment. This rule shall not preclude the occupational therapy assistant from responding to acute changes in the client's condition that warrant immediate action. The occupational therapy assistant shall inform the supervising occupational therapist immediately of the acute changes in the patient's/client's condition and the action taken.
- (b) The supervising occupational therapist shall assume responsibility for the following activities regardless of the setting in which the services are provided:
  - (1) Interpretation of referrals or prescriptions for occupational therapy services.
  - (2) Interpretation and analysis for evaluation purposes.
    - (A) The occupational therapy assistant may contribute to the evaluation process by gathering data, administering standardized tests and reporting observations. The occupational therapy assistant may not evaluate independently or initiate treatment before the supervising occupational therapist performs an assessment/evaluation.
  - (3) Development, interpretation, implementation, and modifications of the treatment plan and the discharge plan.
    - (A) The supervising occupational therapist shall be responsible for delegating the appropriate interventions to the occupational therapy assistant.
    - (B) The occupational therapy assistant may contribute to the preparation, implementation and documentation of the treatment and discharge summary.

#### §4187

An occupational therapy assistant in an administrative role, or supervisory role related to the provision of occupational therapy services may provide administrative responsibilities in a setting where permitted by law.

### Colorado

# **Statute:** Colorado Revised Statutes Title 12, Article 270 12-270-104 Definitions.

- (7) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed under this article 270 to practice occupational therapy under the supervision of an in partnership with an occupational therapist.
- (8) "Supervision" means the giving of aid, directions, and instructions that are adequate to ensure the safety and welfare of clients during the provision of occupational therapy by the occupational therapist designated as the supervisor. Responsible direction and supervision by the occupational therapist shall include consideration of factors such as level of skill, the establishment of service competency, experience, work setting demands, the complexity and stability of the client population, and other factors. Supervision is a collaborative

process for responsible, periodic review and inspection of all aspects of occupational therapy services, and the occupational therapist is legally accountable for occupational therapy services provided by the occupational therapy assistant and the aide.

#### 12-270-109 Supervision of occupational therapy assistants and aides.

- (1) An occupational therapy assistant may practice only under the supervision of an occupational therapist who is licensed to practice occupational therapy in this state. The occupational therapist is responsible for occupational therapy evaluation, appropriate reassessment, treatment planning, interventions, and discharge from occupational therapy services based on standard professional guidelines. Supervision of an occupational therapy assistant by an occupational therapist is a shared responsibility. The supervising occupational therapist and the supervised occupational therapy assistant have legal and ethical responsibility for ongoing management of supervision, including providing, requesting, giving, or obtaining supervision. The supervising occupational therapist shall determine the frequency, level, and nature of supervision with input from the occupational therapy assistant and shall base the supervision determination on a variety of factors, including the clients' required level of care, the treatment plan, and the experience and pertinent skills of the occupational therapy assistant.
- (2) The supervising occupational therapist shall supervise the occupational therapy assistant in a manner that ensures that the occupational therapy assistant:
  - (a) Does not initiate or alter a treatment program without prior evaluation by and approval of the supervising occupational therapist:
  - (b) Obtains prior approval of the supervising occupational therapist before making adjustments to a specific treatment procedure; and
  - (c) Does not interpret data beyond the scope of the occupational therapy assistant's education and training.

#### Regulations: 3 CCR 715-1, Rule 5

- A. The occupational therapist is legally for the performance of the licensed occupational therapy assistant(s) and aide(s) operating under his or her direction and supervision as authorized by § 12-40.5-103(12), C.R.S. That responsibility in turn requires the occupational therapist to provide supervision adequate to ensure the safety and welfare of clients.
- B. Adequate supervision of licensed occupational therapy assistants and aides requires, at a minimum, that a supervising occupational therapist perform the following:
  - 1. Provide client evaluation and appropriate reassessment;
  - 2. Interpret available information concerning the individual under care:
  - 3. Develop a plan of care, including long and short term goals;
  - 4. Identify and document precautions, special problems, contraindications, anticipated progress, and/or plans for reevaluation;
  - 5. Select and delegate appropriate tasks in the plan of care;
  - 6. Designate or establish channels of written and oral communication;
  - 7. Assess competence of personnel to perform assigned tasks;
  - 8. Direct and supervise personnel in delegated tasks; and
  - 9. When necessary, re-evaluate, adjust plan of care, perform final evaluation, and/or establish follow-up plan.
- C. An occupational therapist must exercise professional judgment when determining the number of personnel he/she can safely and effectively supervise to ensure that quality client care is provided at all times.
- D. An occupational therapist must provide adequate staff-to-client ratio at all times to ensure the provision of safe, quality care.
- E. Supervision of licensed occupational therapy assistants shall be accomplished to ensure that:
  - 1. Licensed occupational therapy assistants do not initiate or alter a treatment program without prior evaluation by and approval of the supervising occupational therapist.

	<ol><li>Licensed occupational therapy assistants obtain prior approval of the supervising occupational therapist before making adjustments to a specific treatment procedure.</li></ol>
	3. Licensed occupational therapy assistants do not interpret data beyond the scope of their occupational therapy assistant education and training.
	4. Licensed occupational therapy assistants respond to inquiries regarding client status to appropriate parties within the protocol established by the supervising occupational therapist.
	5. Licensed occupational therapy assistants refer inquiries regarding client prognosis to a supervising occupational therapist.
Connecticut	Statute: General Statutes of Connecticut Chapter 376a, Sec. 20-74a
	(3) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy, under the supervision of or
	with the consultation of a licensed occupational therapist, and whose license is in good standing.
Delaware	Statute: Delaware Code Title 24, Chapter 20, § 2002
	(8) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of an occupational therapist.
	(15) "Supervision" means the interactive process between a licensed occupational therapist and an occupational therapy assistant, and requires more than a paper review or cosignature. "Supervision" means that the supervising occupational therapist is responsible for insuring the extent, kind, and quality of the services that the occupational therapy assistant renders.
	Regulation: Delaware Administrative Code Title 24, Section 2000
	1.0 Supervision/consultation Requirements for Occupational Therapy Assistants
	1.1 "Occupational therapy assistant" shall mean a person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision
	of an occupational therapist. 24 Del.C. §2002(4).
	"Under the supervision of an occupational therapist" means the interactive process between the licensed occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant. It shall be more than a paper review or co-signature. The supervising occupational therapist is responsible for insuring the extent, kind, and quality of the services rendered by the occupational therapy assistant.
	1.1.1 The phrase, "Under the supervision of an occupational therapist," as used in the definition of occupational therapist assistant includes, but is not limited to the following requirements:
	1.1.2 Communicating to the occupational therapy assistant the results of patient/client evaluation and discussing the goals and program plan for the patient/client;
	1.1.3 In accordance with supervision level and applicable health care, educational, professional and institutional regulations, reevaluating the patient/client, reviewing the documentation, modifying the program plan if necessary and co-signing the plan.  1.1.4 Case management;
	1.1.5 Determining program termination;
	1.1.6 Providing information, instruction and assistance as needed;
	1.1.7 Observing the occupational therapy assistant periodically; and
	1.1.8 Preparing on a regular basis, but at least annually, a written appraisal of the occupational therapy assistant's performance and discussion of that appraisal with the assistant.
	1.1.8.1 The supervisor may assign to a competent occupational therapy assistant the administration of standardized tests, the performance of activities of daily living evaluations and other elements of patient/client evaluation and reevaluation
	that do not require the professional judgment and skill of an occupational therapist.
	1.2 Supervision for Occupational Therapy Assistants is defined as follows:
	1.2.1 Direct Supervision requires the supervising occupational therapist to be on the premises and immediately available to provide aid, direction, and instruction while treatment is performed in any setting including home care. Occupational therapy
	assistants with experience of less than one (1) full year are required to have direct supervision.

- 1.2.2 Routine Supervision requires direct contact at least every two (2) weeks at the site of work, with interim supervision occurring by other methods, such as telephonic or written communication.
- 1.2.3 General Supervision requires at least monthly direct contact, with supervision available as needed by other methods. 1.3 Minimum supervision requirements:
  - 1.3.1 Occupational therapy assistants with experience of less than one (1) full year are required to have direct supervision.
    - 1.3.1.1 Occupational therapy assistants with experience greater than one (1) full year must be supervised under either direct, routine or general supervision based upon skill and experience in the field as determined by the supervising OT.
  - 1.3.2 Supervising occupational therapists must have at least one (1) year clinical experience after they have received permanent licensure.
  - 1.3.3 An occupational therapist may supervise up to three (3) occupational therapy assistants but never more than two (2) occupational therapy assistants who are under direct supervision at the same time on any given day.
  - 1.3.4 Effective July 1, 2009, the supervising occupational therapist shall submit to the Board a completed Verification of Occupational Therapy Assistant Supervision form upon the commencement of supervision.
  - 1.3.5 Effective July 1, 2009, the supervising occupational therapist shall immediately advise the Board in writing when he or she is no longer supervising an occupational therapy assistant and shall provide the Board with an updated Verification of Occupational Therapy Assistant Supervision form.
  - 1.3.6 Levels of supervision should be determined by the occupational therapist before the individuals enter into a supervisor/supervisee relationship. The chosen level of supervision should be reevaluated regularly for effectiveness.
  - 1.3.7 The supervising occupational therapist, in collaboration with the occupational therapy assistant, shall maintain a written supervisory plan specifying the level of supervision and shall document the supervision of each occupational therapy assistant. Levels of supervision should be determined by the occupational therapist before the individuals enter into a supervisor/supervisee relationship. The chosen level of supervision should be reevaluated regularly for effectiveness. This plan shall be reviewed at least every six months or more frequently as demands of service changes.
  - 1.3.8 A supervisor who is temporarily unable to provide supervision shall arrange for substitute supervision by an occupational therapist licensed by the Board with at least one (1) year of clinical experience, as defined above, to provide supervision as specified by Section 1.0 of these rules and regulations.

# District of Columbia

### Statute: Chapter 12, Subchapter I, Section 3-1201.02

(9)(B) An individual licensed as an occupational therapy assistant pursuant to this chapter may assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the general supervision of a licensed occupational therapist.

# Regulation: DC Municipal Regulations, Title 17 §6312 RESPONSIBILITIES

6312.5 An occupational therapist supervising an occupational therapy assistant shall be responsible for all of the occupational therapy assistant's actions performed within the scope of practice during the time of supervision and shall be subject to disciplinary action for any violation of the Act or this chapter by the occupational therapy assistant under his or her supervision.

6312.6 A supervising occupational therapist shall provide the following:

- (a) Direct supervision of an occupational therapy assistant prior to initiating treatment programs and before planned discharges for patients;
- (b) An initial and, at a minimum, bimonthly direction to the occupational therapy assistant; and
- (c) Documentation for verification of supervision and direction.

- 6312.7 A supervising occupational therapist shall only delegate duties and responsibilities for the care of patients to the occupational therapy assistant with consideration given to the following:
- (a) The level of skill shown by the occupational therapy assistant;
- (b) The ability to use identified intervention in a safe and effective manner;
- (c) Experience of the occupational therapy assistant and work setting demands; and
- (d) The complexity and stability of the patient population to be treated.

### §7314 SUPERVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS

An occupational therapy assistant may only practice under the supervision, as specified in this section, of an occupational therapist with an active, unrestricted license in good standing in the District of Columbia. The supervising occupational therapist must be available on an as-needed basis and must be able to be on-site within two (2) hours if a need arises.

- 7314.2 The supervising occupational therapist shall provide the following:
- (a) Direct supervision of an occupational therapy assistant prior to initiating treatment programs and before planned discharges for patients;
- (b) An initial and, at a minimum, bimonthly direction to the occupational therapy assistant; and
- (c) Documentation to verify details of supervision and direction.
- 7314.3 The supervising occupational therapist shall only delegate duties and responsibilities for the care of patients to the occupational therapy assistant with consideration given to the following:
- (a) The level of skill shown by the occupational therapy assistant;
- (b) The occupational therapy assistant's ability to use identified intervention in a safe and effective manner;
- (c) Experience of the occupational therapy assistant and work setting demands; and
- (d) The complexity and stability of the patient population to be treated.
- 7314.4 An occupational therapy assistant may assist in the collection and some of the documentation of patient information pertaining to the evaluation and treatment of a patient provided that the supervising occupational therapist bases such assignment or delegation of duties on the demonstrated competency of the occupational therapy assistant. This demonstrated competency shall be documented and maintained on file by the supervising occupational therapist.
- 7314.5 An occupational therapy assistant shall not supervise another occupational therapy assistant.
- 7314.6 An occupational therapy assistant shall immediately inform the supervising occupational therapist and discontinue treatment if a procedure appears to be harmful to the patient.

#### §7399 DEFINITIONS

7399.1 As used in this chapter, the following terms and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed:

Direct supervision - supervision in which the supervisor is personally present and immediately available within the treatment area to give aid, direction, and instruction when occupational therapy procedures or activities are performed.

General supervision - supervision in which the supervisor is available on the premises or by communication device at the time the supervisee is practicing, and can be on-site within two (2) hours in the event of a clinical emergency.

# Statute: Florida Statutes Title XXXII, Chapter 468, Part III **Florida** 468.203 Definitions. As used in this act, the term: (6) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy, who works under the supervision of an occupational therapist, and whose license is in good standing. (8) "Supervision" means responsible supervision and control, with the licensed occupational therapist providing both initial direction in developing a plan of treatment and periodic inspection of the actual implementation of the plan. Such plan of treatment shall not be altered by the supervised individual without prior consultation with, and the approval of, the supervising occupational therapist. The supervising occupational therapist need not always be physically present or on the premises when the assistant is performing services: however. except in cases of emergency, supervision shall require the availability of the supervising occupational therapist for consultation with and direction of the supervised individual. Georgia Statute: Official Code of Georgia Annotated Title 43, Chapter 28 §43-28-3 Definitions (8) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist the occupational therapist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of or with the consultation of the licensed occupational therapist and whose license is in good standing. Regulation: Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia Department 671 Chapter 671-2 DEFINITIONS Rule 671-2-.02 Supervision Defined Supervision as used in the law shall mean personal involvement of the licensed occupational therapist in the supervisee's professional experience which includes evaluation of his or her performance. Further, supervision shall mean personal supervision with weekly verbal contact and consultation, monthly review of patient care documentation, and specific delineation of tasks and responsibilities by the licensed occupational therapist and shall include the responsibility for personally reviewing and interpreting the results of any habilitative or rehabilitative procedures conducted by the supervisee. It is the responsibility of the licensed occupational therapist to ensure that the supervisee does not perform duties for which he or she is not trained. C.O.T.A.s and limited permit holders must be supervised. Rule 671-2-.03 Direct Supervision Defined Direct Supervision as used in the Law shall mean daily on-site, close contact whereby the supervisor is able to respond quickly to the needs of the client or supervisee. It requires specific delineation of task and responsibilities by a licensed Occupational Therapist and shall include the responsibility for personally reviewing and interpreting the result of any habilitative or rehabilitative procedures conducted by the supervisee. It is the responsibility of the licensed occupational therapist to ensure that the supervisee does not perform duties for which he/she is not trained. Hawaii Statute: Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 457G §457G-1 Definitions "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person who engages in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of and in partnership with an occupational therapist. §457G-2.7 Supervision of occupational therapy assistants; partnership with occupational therapists (a) An occupational therapy assistant may practice occupational therapy only under the supervision of, and in partnership with, an

occupational therapist who is licensed to practice occupational therapy in the State. The occupational therapist shall be responsible for occupational therapy evaluation, appropriate reassessment, treatment planning, interventions, and discharge from occupational therapy based on standard professional guidelines. The supervising occupational therapist and the supervised occupational therapy assistant shall

have legal and ethical responsibility for ongoing management of supervision, including providing, requesting, giving, or obtaining supervision.

- (b) The supervising occupational therapist shall:
  - (1) Determine the frequency, level, and nature of supervision with input from the occupational therapy assistant; and
  - (2) Base the supervision determination on a variety of factors, including the clients' required level of care, treatment plan, and experience and pertinent skills of the occupational therapy assistant.
- (c) The supervising occupational therapist shall supervise the occupational therapy assistant to ensure that the occupational therapy assistant:
  - (1) Does not initiate or alter a treatment program without prior evaluation by and approval of the supervising occupational therapist;
  - (2) Obtains prior approval of the supervising occupational therapist before making adjustments to a specific treatment procedure; and
  - (3) Does not interpret data beyond the scope of the occupational therapy assistant's education and training.

### Idaho

# <u>Statute:</u> Idaho Statutes Title 54, Chapter 37 §54-3702 DEFINITIONS.

As used in this chapter:

(12) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed under this chapter to practice occupational therapy and who works under the supervision of an occupational therapist.

#### §54-3715 SUPERVISION

Within the scope of occupational therapy practice, supervision is aimed at ensuring the safe and effective delivery of occupational therapy services and the fostering of professional competence and development. Practices and procedures governing the supervision of occupational therapy assistants, a limited permit holder and an aide in the delivery of occupational therapy services shall be established in rule and be adopted by the board.

# Regulation: Idaho Administrative Code 24.06.01 010. DEFINITIONS.

- 03. Direct Line-of-Site Supervision. Direct line-of-sight supervision requires the supervisor's physical presence and immediate availability at the site when services are being provided to clients by the individual under supervision.
- 04. Direct Supervision. Direct supervision requires daily, in-person contact by the supervisor at the site where services are provided to clients by the individual under supervision.
- 06. General Supervision. General Supervision requires in-person or synchronous interaction at least once per month by an occupational therapist and contact by other means as needed. Other means of contact include, but are not limited to, electronic communications such as email.
- 11. Routine Supervision. Routine Supervision requires in-person or synchronous interaction at least once every two (2) weeks by an occupational therapist and contact by other means as needed. Other means of contact include, but are not limited to, electronic communications such as email.

#### 011. SUPERVISION.

An occupational therapist shall supervise and be responsible for the patient care given by occupational therapy assistants, limited permit holders, aides, and students. An occupational therapist's or occupational therapy assistant's failure to provide appropriate supervision in accordance with these rules is grounds for discipline.

- 01. Supervision Requirements. Supervision is the direction and review of service delivery, treatment plans, and treatment outcomes. Unless otherwise specified in this rule, General Supervision is the minimum level of supervision that must be provided. Methods of supervision may include, but are not limited to, Direct Line-of-Sight Supervision, Direct Supervision, Routine Supervision, or General Supervision, as needed to ensure the safe and effective delivery of occupational therapy.
  - a. An occupational therapist and an occupational therapy assistant must ensure the delivery of services by the individual being supervised is appropriate for client care and safety and must evaluate:
    - i. The complexity of client needs;
    - ii. The number and diversity of clients;
    - iii. The skills of the occupational therapist and the occupational therapist assistant, aide, or limited permit holder;
    - iv. The type of practice setting;
    - v. The requirements of the practice setting; and
    - vi. Other regulatory requirements applicable to the practice setting or delivery of services.
  - b. Supervision must be documented in a manner appropriate to the individuals and the setting. The documentation must be kept as required by Section 013 of these rules.
  - c. Supervision must include consultation at appropriate intervals regarding evaluation, intervention, progress, reevaluation and discharge planning for each patient. Consultation must be documented and signed by the supervisor and supervisee.
- 02. Occupational Therapy Assistants. Occupational therapy assistants must be supervised by an occupational therapist. General Supervision must be provided at a minimum.

#### Illinois

#### Statute: 225 ILCS 75/2 Definitions

In this Act:

(5) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person initially registered and licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist, and to implement the occupational therapy treatment program as established by the licensed occupational therapist.

# Regulation: Illinois Administrative Code Title 68, Chapter VII, Subchapter b, Part 1315 Section 1315.163 Supervision of an Occupational Therapy Assistant

- a) A certified occupational therapy assistant shall practice only under the supervision of a registered occupational therapist. Supervision is a process in which 2 or more persons participate in a joint effort to establish, maintain and elevate a level of performance and shall include the following criteria:
  - 1) To maintain high standards of practice based on professional principles, supervision shall connote the physical presence of the supervisors and the assistant at regularly scheduled supervision sessions.
  - 2) Supervision shall be provided in varying patterns as determined by the demands of the areas of patient/client service and the competency of the individual assistant. Such supervision shall be structured according to the assistant's qualifications, position, level of preparation, depth of experience and the environment within which he/she functions.
  - 3) The supervisors shall be responsible for the standard of work performed by the assistant and shall have knowledge of the patients/clients and the problems being discussed. Co-signature does not reflect supervision.
  - 4) A minimum guideline of formal supervision is as follows:
    - A) The occupational therapy assistant who has less than one year of work experience or who is entering new practice environments or developing new skills shall receive a minimum of 5% on-site face-to-face supervision from a registered occupational therapist per month. On-site supervision consists of direct, face-to-face collaboration in which the supervisor must be on the premises. The remaining work hours shall be supervised by a combination of telephone, electronic communication, telecommunication, technology or face-to-face consultation.

	B) The occupational therapy assistant with more than one year of experience in his/her current practice shall have a minimum of 5% direct supervision from a registered occupational therapist per month. The 5% direct supervision shall consist of 2% direct, face-to-face collaboration. The remaining 3% of supervision shall be a combination of telephone, electronic communication, telecommunication technology or face-to-face consultation. The remaining work hours will be supervised in accordance with subsection (a)(2).  b) Record Keeping. It is the responsibility of the occupational therapy assistant to maintain on file at the job site signed documentation reflecting supervision activities. This supervision documentation shall contain the following: date of supervision, means of communication, information discussed and the outcomes of the interaction. Both the supervising occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant must sign each entry.
Indiana	Statute: Indiana Code 25-23.5 Chapter 0.5 Applicability Sec. 3. An occupational therapy assistant shall:  (1) be licensed under this article; and (2) practice under the supervision of an occupational therapist who is licensed under this article.
	Chapter 1. Definitions Sec. 6. "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person who provides occupational therapy services under the supervision of an occupational therapist.
	Regulation: Indiana Administrative Code Title 844, Article 10 Rule 5. Standards of Competent Practice of Occupational Therapy Sec. 5. Supervision of occupational therapy assistant
	Under the supervision of an occupational therapist, an occupational therapy assistant may contribute to the screening and evaluation process. The occupational therapy assistant may also contribute to the following:  (1) The development and implementation of the intervention plan.  (2) The monitoring and documentation of progress.  (3) The discontinuation or discharge from care or transitioning to another level of care.
	The occupational therapy assistant may not independently develop the intervention plan or initiate treatment.
Iowa	Statute: Iowa Code Title IV, Chapter 148B 148B2 Definitions. As used in this chapter: 4. "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed under this chapter to assist in the practice of occupational therapy.
	Regulation: Iowa Administrative Code Division 645, Chapter 206 645–206.1 (147) Definitions
	"Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed under this chapter to assist in the practice of occupational therapy.
	645–206.8 (148B) Supervision requirements. 206.8(2) Occupational therapist supervisor responsibilities. The supervisor shall: a. Provide supervision to a licensed OTA, OT limited permit holder and OTA limited permit holder anytime occupational therapy services are rendered. Supervision may be provided on site or through the use of telecommunication or other technology. b. Ensure that every licensed OTA, OT limited permit holder and OTA limited permit holder being supervised is aware of who the supervisor is and how the supervisor can be contacted anytime occupational therapy services are rendered.

- c. Assume responsibility for all delegated tasks and shall not delegate a service which exceeds the expertise of the OTA or OTA limited permit holder.
- d. Provide evaluation and development of a treatment plan for use by the OTA.
- e. Ensure that the OTA, OT limited permit holder and OTA limited permit holder under the OT's supervision have current licenses to practice.
- f. Ensure that the signature of an OTA on an occupational therapy treatment record indicates that the occupational therapy services were provided in accordance with the rules and regulations for practicing as an OTA.
- 206.8(3) The following are functions that only an occupational therapist may provide and that shall not be delegated to an OTA:
  - a. Interpretation of referrals;
  - b. Initial occupational therapy evaluation and reevaluations;
  - c. Identification, determination or modification of patient problems, goals, and care plans;
  - d. Final discharge evaluation and establishment of the discharge plan;
  - e. Assurance of the qualifications of all assistive personnel to perform assigned tasks through written documentation of their education or training that is maintained and available at all times;
  - f. Delegation of and instruction in the services to be rendered by the OTA including, but not limited to, specific tasks or procedures, precautions, special problems, and contraindicated procedures; and
  - g. Timely review of documentation, reexamination of the patient and revision of the plan when indicated.
- 206.8(5) Minimum frequency of OT interaction. At a minimum, an OT must directly participate in treatment, either in person or through a telehealth visit, every twelfth visit for all patients and must document each visit. The occupational therapist shall participate at a higher frequency when the standard of care dictates.
- 206.8(6) Occupational therapy assistant responsibilities.
- a. The occupational therapy assistant:
  - (1) Shall provide only those services for which the OTA has the necessary skills and shall consult the supervising occupational therapist if the procedures are believed not to be in the best interest of the patient;
  - (2) Shall gather data relating to the patient's disability during screening, but shall not interpret the patient information as it pertains to the plan of care;
  - (3) Shall communicate any change, or lack of change, which occurs in the patient's condition and which may need the assessment of the OT;
  - (4) Shall provide occupational therapy services only under the supervision of the occupational therapist;
  - (5) Shall provide treatment only after evaluation and development of a treatment plan by the occupational therapist;
  - (6) Shall refer inquiries that require interpretation of patient information to the occupational therapist;
  - (7) Shall be supervised by an occupational therapist, either on site or through the use of telecommunication or other technology, at all times when occupational therapy services are being rendered;
  - (8) May receive supervision from any number of occupational therapists; and
  - (9) Shall record on every patient chart the name of the OTA's supervisor for each treatment session.
- b. The signature of an OTA on the occupational therapy treatment record indicates that occupational therapy services were provided in accordance with the rules and regulations for practicing as an OTA.

### **Kansas**

# **Statute:** Kansas Statutes Annotated Chapter 65, Article 54

#### 65-5402. Definitions.

(e) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of an occupational therapist.

### Regulation: Kansas Administrative Regulations Agency 100, Article 54

### 100-54-9. Occupational therapy assistants; information to board.

Before an occupational therapist allows an occupational therapy assistant to work under the occupational therapist's direction, the occupational therapist shall inform the board of the following:

- (a) The name of each occupational therapy assistant who intends to work under the direction of that occupational therapist;
- (b) the occupational therapy assistant's place of employment; and
- (c) the address of the employer.

# Kentucky

### Statute: Kentucky Revised Statutes 319A.010

### Definitions for chapter.

As used in this chapter:

(4) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under this chapter, who works under the supervision of an occupational therapist;

# Regulation: Kentucky Administrative Regulations 201 KAR 28:010

#### Section 1. Definitions.

(11) "General supervision" means an interactive process for collaboration on the practice of occupational therapy which includes the review and oversight of all aspects of the services being provided by the individual under supervision.

### Regulation: Kentucky Administrative Regulations 201 KAR 28:130

# Supervision of occupational therapy assistant, occupational therapy aides, occupational therapy students, and temporary permit holders

Section 1. Definitions.

- (1) "Countersign" means the OT/L signs the client's documentation after actively reviewing the history of the intervention provided to the client and confirming that, in light of the entire intervention plan, the OTA/L's entry is proper.
- (2) "Face-to-face supervision" means being physically present in the room and being able to directly communicate with an individual while observing and guiding the activities of that individual, including:
  - (a) A review of the occupational therapy services being provided to a client that might affect the therapeutic outcomes and the revision of the plan of care for each client; and
  - (b) An interactive process between the supervisor and the individual under supervision involving direct observation, co-treatment, dialogue, teaching, and instruction in a face-to face setting.
- (3) "Supervisor" means the OT/L who is providing supervision.

### Section 2. General Policy Statement for Supervision.

- (1) The OT/L shall have the ultimate responsibility for occupational therapy outcomes. Supervision shall be a shared responsibility.
- (2) The supervising OT/L shall have a legal and ethical responsibility to provide supervision and the supervisee shall have a legal and ethical responsibility to obtain supervision.
- (3) Supervision by the OT/L of the supervisee's provision of occupational therapy services shall always be required, even when the supervisee is experienced and skilled in a particular practice area.

Section 3. Supervision of Licensed Occupational Therapy Assistants.

- (1) An OTA/L shall assist in the practice of occupational therapy only under the supervision of an OT/L.
- (2) The supervisor shall provide no less than four (4) hours per month of general supervision for each occupational therapy assistant which shall include no less than two (2) hours per month of face-to-face supervision.
- (3) The amount of supervision time shall be prorated for a part-time OTA/L.
- (4) The supervisor or the OTA/L may institute additional supervision based on the competence and experience of the OTA/L.
- (5) The supervisor shall assign and the OTA/L shall accept only those duties and responsibilities for which the OTA/L has been specifically trained and which the OTA/L is qualified to perform.
- (6) Specific responsibilities for supervising OT/Ls and OTA/Ls.
  - (a) Assessment and reassessment.
    - 1. Client evaluation is the responsibility of the OT/L.
    - 2. The OTA/L may contribute to the evaluation process by gathering data, administering structured tests, and reporting observations.
    - 3. The OTA/L may not evaluate independently or initiate therapy prior to the OT/L's evaluation.
  - (b) Intervention planning.
    - 1. The OT/L shall take primary responsibility for the intervention planning.
    - 2. The OTA/L may contribute to the intervention planning as directed by the OT/L.
  - (c) Intervention.
    - 1. The OT/L shall be responsible for the outcome and delivery of the occupational therapy intervention.
    - 2. The OT/L shall be responsible for assigning appropriate therapeutic interventions to the OTA/L.
  - (d) Discontinuation of intervention.
    - 1. The OT/L shall be responsible for the discontinuation of occupational therapy services.
    - 2. The OTA/L may contribute to the discontinuation of intervention as directed by the OT/L.
- (7) Documentation requirements.
  - (a) Notations recorded by an OTA/L to an initial evaluation, plan of care, or discharge summary, that are documented in a client's permanent record, shall be countersigned by the supervisor within fourteen (14) calendar days of the notation.
  - (b) The supervising OT/L and individuals under supervision shall each maintain a log which shall document:
    - 1. The frequency of the supervision provided:
    - 2. The observation, dialogue and discussion, and instructional techniques employed;
    - 3. The type of supervision provided, either general or face-to-face;
    - 4. The dates on which the supervision occurred; and
    - 5. The number of hours worked by the OTA/L each month.
  - (c) It shall be the responsibility of the supervising OT/L to maintain a list of any OTA/L that he or she has supervised with the OTA/L's name and license number.
  - (d) It shall be the responsibility of the OTA/L under supervision to maintain a list of his or her supervising OT/L with that individual's name and license number.
- (8) A supervising OT/L shall not have more than the equivalent of three (3) full time OTA/Ls under supervision at any one (1) time.
- (a) In extenuating circumstances, when the OTA/L is without supervision, the OTA/L may continue carrying out established programs for up to thirty (30) calendar days under agency supervision while appropriate occupational therapy supervision is sought.
  - (b) It shall be the responsibility of the OTA/L to notify the board of these circumstances and to submit, in writing, a plan for resolution of the situation.

# (10) A supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring the safe and effective delivery of OT services and for fostering the professional competence and development of the OTA/Ls under his or her supervision.

### Louisiana

# **Statute:** Louisiana Revised Statutes Title 37, Chapter 39 §3003 Definitions.

(5) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person who is certified as a certified occupational therapy assistant (COTA) by the American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc. (AOTA), and is licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of, and in activity programs with the consultation of, an occupational therapist licensed under this Act.

# Regulation: Louisiana Administrative Code Title 46, Part XLV, Subpart 2, Chapter 19, Subchapter A §1901. Definitions

Occupational Therapy Assistant—a person who is licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of, and in activity programs with the consultation of, an occupational therapist licensed under this Chapter.

# Regulation: Louisiana Administrative Code Title 46, Part XLV, Subpart 3, Chapter 49, Subchapter A §4903. Definitions.

Close Client Care Supervision—face to face observation of an occupational therapy assistant administering occupational therapy to a client, accompanied or followed in a timely fashion by verbal discussion of client goals, the individual program plan and other matters which may affect the client's plan of care.

Occupational Therapy Assistant—a person who is licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of, and in activity programs with the consultation of, an occupational therapist licensed under this Chapter.

Periodically—occurring at regular intervals of time not less than every two weeks or the sixth visit, whichever comes first.

Supervising Occupational Therapist—an occupational therapist responsible to the client for occupational therapy who observes, directs, consults with and retains responsibility for the service competence and performance of an occupational therapy assistant in the administration of occupational therapy to such client.

### §4919. Quality Assurance and Service Competency

- C. Any occupational therapist supervising an occupational therapy assistant must have performed and documented a service competency on the occupational therapy assistant. The occupational therapist must have previously evaluated and/or treated any client being seen by an occupational therapy assistant he or she is supervising. In addition:
  - 1. initial service competency. Following acceptance of responsibility to supervise an occupational therapy assistant, but prior to utilization of such assistant in the implementation of any client program plan or other administration of occupational therapy to a client, the supervising occupational therapist shall initially evaluate and document the occupational therapy assistant's service competency to administer all occupational therapy services which are to be performed under his or her supervision and direction. The service competency is designed to document the occupational therapy assistant's skill set;
  - 2. annual service competency. Following such an initial evaluation the supervising occupational therapist shall thereafter annually conduct and document a service competency to determine the occupational therapy assistant's skill set;
  - 3. documentation of service competency. Documentation of initial and annual competency shall include the date the evaluation was performed, a description of the tasks evaluated, and the name, signature and Louisiana license number of the supervising occupational therapist conducting the service competency evaluation;

- 4. in practice settings where an occupational therapy assistant is supervised by more than one occupational therapist, service competencies (initial and/or annual) performed by one supervising occupational therapist will satisfy the requirements of this Section for all occupational therapists supervising the occupational therapy assistant in the performance of the same services, provided that their name, signature and Louisiana license number appears on the evaluation;
- 5. a supervising occupational therapist shall insure such documentation is maintained by the occupational therapy assistant and at each clinic, facility or home health agency where the occupational therapy assistant practices under his or her supervision.
- D. A supervising occupational therapist is responsible for and must be capable of demonstrating compliance with the requirements of this Chapter and AOTA supervision guidelines respecting supervision of occupational therapy assistants.

### §4925. Supervision of Occupational Therapy Assistants

- A. The rules of this Section, together with those specified in §4915 and §4919, govern supervision of an occupational therapy assistant by a supervising occupational therapist in any clinical setting.
- B. An occupational therapy assistant may assist in implementation of a client program plan in consultation with and under the supervision of an occupational therapist. Such supervision shall not be construed in every case to require the continuous physical presence of the supervising occupational therapist provided, however, that the supervising occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant must have the capability to be in contact with each other by telephone or other telecommunication which allows for simultaneous interactive discussion between the supervising occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant. Supervision shall exist when the occupational therapist responsible for the client gives informed concurrence of the actions of the occupational therapy assistant and adheres to all requirements set forth in this Chapter.
- C. Prior to Implementation of Program Plan. Prior to the administration of occupational therapy by an occupational therapy assistant, the supervising occupational therapist shall, in accordance with AOTA standards of practice as may from time to time be amended:
  - 1. perform an evaluation;
  - 2. identify and establish occupational therapy needs, goals and an individual program plan;
  - 3. ensure that the documents created pursuant to §4925.C.1 and §4925.C.2 are made part of the client's record and accessible to the occupational therapy assistant prior to his or her the first treatment session with the client; and
  - 4. be available for a client care conference.
- D. Throughout the Duration of Program Plan. Following implementation and throughout the duration of the program plan:
  - 1. a supervising occupational therapist shall periodically and systematically re-evaluate the appropriateness of all services delivered. Such information shall be documented in the client's record, which shall be made available to the occupational therapy assistant. The supervising occupational therapist preparing such revisions shall communicate any critical aspect or significant change in the program plan to the occupational therapy assistant by means of a client care conference prior to the occupational therapy assistant's next treatment session with the client;
  - 2. at all times during which an occupational therapy assistant assists in program plan implementation, the supervising occupational therapist shall be immediately accessible for a client care conference; and
  - 3. an occupational therapy assistant shall not administer occupational therapy to any client whose physical, cognitive, functional or mental status differs substantially from that identified by the supervising occupational therapist's individual program plan in the absence of re-evaluation by, or an immediate prior client care conference with, the supervising occupational therapist.
- E. In addition to the terms and conditions specified in §4919 and §4925.A-D, the following additional requirements are applicable to an occupational therapy assistant's administration of occupational therapy under the supervision of an occupational therapist.
  - 1. In any clinical setting, other than specified by §4925.E.3:
    - a. an occupational therapy assistant with less than one year of practice experience:

- i. shall receive close client care supervision in each clinical setting for not less than one of every four, or 25+ percent, of those clients to whom he or she has administered occupational therapy during an average weekly case load:
- ii. in addition, a client care conference shall be held with respect to each client to whom the occupational therapy assistant administers occupational therapy;
- b. an occupational therapy assistant with more than one but less than two years of practice experience:
  - i. shall receive close client care supervision in each clinical setting for not less than one of every 10, or 10 percent, of those clients seen during an average weekly case load;
  - ii. in addition, a client care conference shall be held with respect to each client to whom the occupational therapy assistant administers occupational therapy;
- c. an occupational therapy assistant with more than two years of practice experience:
  - i. shall receive a client care conference with respect to each client to whom the occupational therapy assistant administers occupational therapy.
- 2. School System, Long-Term Psychiatric and Nursing Home Facility Settings. In addition to the requirements prescribed in §4925.E.1, clients in school system, long-term psychiatric or nursing home facility settings shall be re-evaluated or treated by the supervising occupational therapist not less frequently than the earlier of once a month or every sixth treatment session.
- 3. Home Health Setting. The terms and conditions prescribed by §4925.E.1 shall not be applicable to a home health setting. An occupational therapy assistant may assist in implementation of a client program plan in a home health setting under the supervision of an occupational therapist provided all the following terms, conditions and restrictions of this Chapter, except §4925.E.1, are strictly observed:
  - a. an occupational therapy assistant shall have had not less than two years practice experience in providing occupational therapy prior to administering occupational therapy in a home health environment;
  - b. each client in a home health setting to whom an occupational therapy assistant administers occupational therapy shall be re-evaluated or treated by the supervising occupational therapist not less frequently than the earlier of once every two weeks or every sixth treatment session; and
  - c. a face-to-face client care conference shall occur not less frequently than once every two weeks to discuss all clients to whom the occupational therapy assistant has administered occupational therapy in a home health setting. Such conference shall be documented by the supervising occupational therapist in a supervisory log and maintained by or at the home health entity.
- 4. Early Intervention Setting. The terms and conditions prescribed by §4925.E.1 shall not be applicable to an early intervention setting. An occupational therapy assistant may assist in implementation of a client program plan in an early intervention setting under the supervision of an occupational therapist provided all the following terms, conditions and restrictions of this Chapter, except §4925.E.1, are strictly observed:
  - a. an occupational therapy assistant shall have had not less than two years practice experience in providing occupational therapy prior to administering occupational therapy in an early intervention setting;
  - b. each client in an early intervention setting to whom an occupational therapy assistant administers occupational therapy shall be re-evaluated or treated by the supervising occupational therapist not less frequently than the earlier of once a month or every sixth treatment session; and
  - c. a client care conference shall occur not less frequently than the earlier of once every month or every sixth treatment session to discuss all clients to whom the occupational therapy assistant has administered occupational therapy in an early intervention setting. Such conference shall be documented and maintained by the supervising occupational therapist in a supervisory log.

# F. Mutual Obligations and Responsibilities. A supervising occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant shall bear equal reciprocal obligations to insure strict compliance with the obligations, responsibilities and provisions set forth in this Chapter.

G. The administration of occupational therapy other than in accordance with the provisions of this Section and §4919 shall be deemed a violation of these rules, subjecting the occupational therapist and/or an occupational therapy assistant to suspension or revocation of licensure pursuant to §4921.B.18.

### Maine

# **Statute:** Maine Revised Statutes Title 32, Chapter 32 § 2272 Definitions

- 12–B. "Occupational therapy assistant" means an individual who has passed the certification exam of the NBCOT for an occupational therapy assistant or who was certified as an occupational therapy assistant prior to June 1977 and who is licensed to practice occupational therapy under this chapter in the State under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist.
- 14. "Supervision of OTA" means initial directions and periodic inspection of the service delivery and provision of relevant in-service training. The supervising licensed occupational therapist shall determine the frequency and nature of the supervision to be provided based on the clients' required level of care and the OTA's caseload, experience and competency.

# <u>Regulations:</u> Maine Rules 02-477, Chapter 5 ROLE OF THE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT; SUPERVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS AND TEMPORARY LICENSEES

1. Role of the Occupational Therapy Assistant

The occupational therapy assistant:

- 1. May assist in the practice of occupational therapy only with the supervision of an occupational therapist;
- 2. Shall apply critical thinking and clinical reasoning, including reflection and reassessment, in addressing clients' needs;
- 3. May initiate a treatment intervention program only when the client has been evaluated and intervention treatment has been planned by the occupational therapist, and may discharge the client from a treatment intervention program only in collaboration with or after consultation with the occupational therapist;
- 4. May not perform an evaluation independently, but may contribute to the evaluation process in collaboration or consultation with the occupational therapist;
- 5. May participate in the screening process by collecting data, such as records, by general observation and/or by conducting a general interview, and may communicate in writing or orally the information gathered to the occupational therapist;
- 6. May track the need for reassessment, report changes in status that might warrant reassessment or referral, and administer the reassessment under the supervision of the occupational therapist; and
- 7. Shall immediately discontinue any specific treatment procedure which appears harmful to the client and so notify the supervising occupational therapist.

NOTE: The permissible activities of occupational therapists are set forth in 32 MRSA §2272(12) (statutory definition of occupational therapy).

- 2. Supervision of Occupational Therapy Assistants and Temporary Licensees
  - 1. Principles of Supervision

The occupational therapist has the ultimate responsibility for occupational therapy treatment outcomes. Supervision is a shared responsibility. The supervising occupational therapist has a legal and ethical responsibility to provide supervision, and the supervisee has a legal and ethical responsibility to obtain supervision. Supervision is required even when the supervisee is experienced and/or highly skilled in a particular area. A supervisor is legally and ethically responsible for the professional activities of an occupational therapy assistant or temporary licensee under his or her supervision.

2. Knowledge of Client

The supervising occupational therapist must have knowledge of the client, or the occupational therapy services received by the client, and the problems being discussed.

3. Supervision of Occupational Therapy Assistants

Supervision consists of "initial directions and periodic inspection of the service delivery and provision of relevant in-service training. The supervising licensed occupational therapist shall determine the frequency and nature of the supervision to be provided based on the clients' required level of care and the COTA's caseload, experience and competency."32 MRSA §2272(14)

5. Supervision Requirement; Supervision Forms

A. Each occupational therapy assistant and temporary licensee must have a supervisor of record for each facility or work setting at or in which the occupational therapy assistant or temporary licensee is employed. The supervising occupational therapist must agree in writing, on a form provided by the board, to provide supervision to the named supervisee pursuant to the laws and rules governing the practice of occupational therapy. Any change of supervisor must be documented by a replacement or supplemental supervision form, as the case may be.

B. All supervision forms must be must sent to the board no later than 10 days after execution by the supervisor and supervisee. The supervisor and supervisee are equally responsible for sending the forms to the board and ensuring that accurate, up-to-date supervision forms are on file with the board at all times.

# Maryland

# <u>Statute:</u> Annotated Code of Maryland Health Occupations Article, Title 10 §10-101 Definitions.

- (e) "Direct supervision" means supervision provided on a face-to-face basis by a supervising therapist when delegated client-related tasks are performed.
- (h) "Licensed occupational therapy assistant" means, unless the context requires otherwise, an occupational therapy assistant who is licensed by the Board to practice limited occupational therapy.
- (i) (1) "Limited occupational therapy" means participation, while under the periodic supervision of a licensed occupational therapist, in:
  - (i) An initial screening and evaluation that applies the principles and procedures of occupational therapy; and
  - (ii) A treatment program that applies the principles and procedures of occupational therapy.
  - (2) "Limited occupational therapy" does not include:
    - (i) Initiation and interpretation of evaluation data; and
    - (ii) Initiation of a treatment program before the client has been evaluated and a licensed occupational therapist has rendered a treatment plan.
- (q) "On-site supervision" means supervision in which a supervisor is immediately available on a face-to-face basis when client procedures are performed or as otherwise necessary.
- (r) (1) "Periodic supervision" means supervision by a licensed occupational therapist on a face-to-face basis, occurring the earlier of at least:
  - (i) Once every 10 therapy visits; or
  - (ii) Once every 30 calendar days.
  - (2) "Periodic supervision" includes:
    - (i) Chart review; and
    - (ii) Meetings to discuss client treatment plans, client response, or observation of treatment.
- (s) "Supervision" means aid, direction, and instruction provided by an occupational therapist to adequately ensure the safety and welfare of clients during the course of occupational therapy.

#### §10-310. Scope of occupational therapy assistant license

- (a) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, an occupational therapy assistant license authorizes the licensee to practice limited occupational therapy while the license is effective.
- (b) A licensed occupational therapy assistant may practice limited occupational therapy only under the supervision of an occupational therapy in this State.

# Regulation: Code of Maryland Regulations Title 10, Subtitle 46, Chapter 01 §10.46.01.01 Definitions.

- (8) "Direct supervision" means supervision provided on a face-to-face basis by a supervisor who is a licensed occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant, during the performance of delegated client-related tasks.
- (18) "Occupational therapy assistant" means, unless the context requires otherwise, an occupational therapy assistant who is licensed by the Board to practice limited occupational therapy.
- (19) "On-site supervision" means supervision provided by a supervisor who is:
  - (a) A licensed occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant; and
  - (b) Immediately available on the premises to provide direct supervision, if needed, when client-related procedures are performed or as otherwise necessary.
- (20) Periodic Supervision.
  - (a) "Periodic supervision" means supervision provided by a supervisor who is a licensed occupational therapist on a face-to-face basis, for each client who is being treated by the licensed occupational therapy assistant supervisee, occurring the earlier of at least:
    - (i) Once every 10 therapy visits; or
    - (ii) Once every 30 calendar days.
  - (b) "Periodic supervision" includes:
    - (i) Chart review; and
    - (ii) Meetings to discuss client treatment plans, client response to treatment, or observation of treatment, as indicated to ensure the competent and safe provision of occupational therapy services.
- (26) "Supervision" means the provision of clinical aid, direction, and instruction, by either a licensed occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant, to ensure the competent delivery of occupational therapy services.
- (27) "Supervisor" means an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant, excluding temporary licensees, who is licensed by the Board and has the responsibility of clinically supervising the provision of occupational therapy treatment services.

### §10.46.01.04 Supervision requirements

- A. Occupational Therapist.
  - (1) A licensed occupational therapist may supervise the clinical practice of the following:
    - (a) Occupational therapist;
    - (b) Occupational therapy assistant;
    - (c) Temporary occupational therapist;
    - (d) Temporary occupational therapy assistant;
    - (e) Aide; and
    - (f) Occupational therapy student or occupational therapy assistant student.
  - (2) Unless otherwise stated, a supervisor need not be physically present on the premises at all times, but may be available by telephone or by other electronic communication means.
- B. Occupational Therapy Assistant.

- (1) Subject to the requirements of this section, an occupational therapy assistant may practice limited occupational therapy under the supervision of an occupational therapist provided it is at least periodic supervision.
- (2) The supervising occupational therapist working with the occupational therapy assistant shall determine the appropriate amount and type of supervision necessary, taking into consideration:
  - (a) Skills, experience, and education of the occupational therapy assistant and the occupational therapist;
  - (b) Change in a client's status;
  - (c) Complexity of the treatment program; and
  - (d) Type and requirements of practice setting.
- (3) In addition to the other requirements specified by this section, supervision requires that, before the initiation of the treatment program and before a planned discharge, the supervising occupational therapist shall provide direction to the occupational therapy assistant by verbal, written, or electronic communication.
- (4) An occupational therapy assistant, under the direction of the occupational therapist, is permitted to be the primary clinical supervisor for the following:
  - (a) Aide:
  - (b) Temporary occupational therapy assistant;
  - (c) Level I fieldwork occupational therapy student; and
  - (d) Level I and Level II fieldwork occupational therapy assistant student.
- (5) The occupational therapy assistant may be utilized to facilitate occupational therapy student and occupational therapy assistant student learning experiences in both Level I and Level II fieldwork under the direction of the occupational therapist.
- (6) The supervising occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant are jointly responsible for maintaining formal documentation of periodic supervision as set forth in Regulation .05 of this chapter.

### **Massachusetts**

### Statute: Massachusetts General Laws, Part I, Title XVI, Chapter 112, Section 23A

Occupational therapy shall also include delegating of selective forms of treatment to occupational therapy assistants and occupational therapy aides; provided, however, that the occupational therapist so delegating shall assume the responsibility for the care of the patient and the supervision of the occupational therapy assistant or the occupational therapy aide.

"Occupational therapy assistant", a person duly licensed in accordance with section twenty-three B and who assists in the practice of occupational therapy who works under the supervision of a duly licensed occupational therapist.

# Regulation: 259 CMR (Code of Massachusetts Regulations) 3.00 Use of Supportive Personnel

- (1) Responsibility for Supportive Personnel. Primary responsibility for occupational therapy care rendered by supportive personnel rests with the supervising occupational therapist.
- (2) Supervision of Occupational Therapy Assistants and Occupational Therapy Aides.

Adequate supervision of occupational therapy assistants and occupational therapy aides requires, at a minimum, that a supervising occupational therapist perform the following:

- (a) provide initial evaluation;
- (b) interpret available information concerning the individual under care;
- (c) develop plan of care, including long and short term goals;
- (d) identify and document precautions, special problems, contraindications, anticipated progress, and plans for reevaluation;
- (e) select and delegate appropriate tasks in the plan of care;
- (f) designate or establish channels of written and oral communication;
- (g) assess competence of supportive personnel to perform assigned tasks;

(h) direct and supervise supportive personnel in delegated tasks; and
(i) re-evaluate, adjust plan of care when necessary, perform final evaluation and establish follow-up plan.
(3) Supervision by Occupational Therapists.
(a) Occupational therapists must exercise their professional judgement when determining the number of supportive personnel they can safely and effectively supervise to ensure that quality care is provided at all times.
(b) Licensed occupational therapy personnel must provide adequate staff to client ratio at all times to ensure the provision of safe, quality care.
(c) An occupational therapist must provide supervision to the following persons rendering occupational therapy services:  1. occupational therapy assistants; and
<ol> <li>temporary license holders.</li> <li>(d) An occupational therapist must provide direct supervision to the following persons rendering occupational therapy services:</li> </ol>
1. occupational therapist students;
2. occupational therapy assistant students; and
3. occupational therapy aides, rehabilitation aides, or persons known by other similar titles.
(4) Performance of Services by Occupational Therapy Assistants.
(a) Occupational therapy assistants may not initiate or alter a treatment program without prior evaluation by and approval of the

- ion by and approval of the supervising occupational therapist.
- (b) Occupational therapy assistants may, with prior approval of the supervising occupational therapist, adjust a specific treatment procedure in accordance with changes in client status.
- (c) Occupational therapy assistants may not interpret data beyond the scope of their occupational therapy assistant education.
- (d) Occupational therapy assistants may respond to inquiries regarding client status to appropriate parties within the protocol established by the supervising occupational therapist.
- (e) Occupational therapy assistants shall refer inquiries regarding client prognosis to a supervising occupational therapist.
- (5) Supervision by Occupational Therapy Assistants.
  - (a) Occupational therapy assistants must exercise their professional judgement when determining the number of supportive personnel they can safely and effectively supervise to ensure that quality care is provided at all times.
  - (b) An occupational therapy assistant must provide supervision to occupational therapy assistants with temporary licenses.
  - (c) An occupational therapy assistant must provide direct supervision to the following persons providing occupational therapy services:
    - 1. occupational therapy assistant students; and
    - 2. occupational therapy aides, rehabilitation aides or persons known by other similar titles.

# Michigan

### Statute: Michigan Compiled Laws, Chapter 333, Section 333.18301 Definitions.

- (1) As used in this part:
- (a) "Occupational therapy assistant" means an individual licensed under this article to engage in practice as an occupational therapy assistant.
- (d) "Practice as an occupational therapy assistant" means the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of an occupational therapist licensed under this article.

### Regulation: Michigan Administrative Code R338.1211 Definitions.

Rule 11. As used in these rules:

(e) "Occupational therapy assistant" means an individual who holds a current license to practice as an occupational therapy assistant and delivers occupational therapy services under the supervision of and in partnership with an occupational therapist, under sections 16215 and 18301(1)(a) of the code.

### Regulation: Michigan Administrative Code R338.1229

Delegation of limited assessments, tasks or interventions to an occupational therapy assistant; supervision of an occupational therapy assistant; requirements.

Rule 29.

- (1) An occupational therapist who delegates the performance of selected limited assessments, tasks or interventions to an occupational therapy assistant as permitted under section 16215 of the code, MCL 333.16215, shall supervise the occupational therapy assistant consistent with section 16109(2) of the code, MCL 333.16109(2), and satisfy the requirements of this rule. As used in this rule, "limited assessment" means those parts of an evaluation that an occupational therapy assistant is qualified by education and training to perform while under the supervision of an occupational therapist.
- (2) An occupational therapist who delegates limited assessments, tasks, or interventions to an occupational therapy assistant shall ensure the qualifications of the occupational therapy assistant under the occupational therapist's supervision, including verification of the occupational therapy assistant's training, education, and licensure.
- (3) An occupational therapist who delegates limited assessments, tasks, or interventions to an occupational therapy assistant shall determine and provide the appropriate level of supervision required for the occupational therapy assistant's performance of the delegated limited assessment, task, or intervention. The appropriate level of supervision shall be determined based on the occupational therapy assistant's education, training, and experience and includes 1 of the following:
  - (a) "General supervision" means that the occupational therapist is not required to be physically present on site, but shall be continuously available at the time the limited assessment, task, or intervention is performed. Continuously available includes availability by telecommunication or other electronic device.
  - (b) "Direct supervision" means that the occupational therapist is physically present with the occupational therapy assistant or immediately available for direction and onsite supervision at the time the limited assessment, task, or intervention is performed, and that the occupational therapist has direct contact in the physical presence of the patient or client during each visit.
- (4) An occupational therapist who delegates limited assessments, tasks, or interventions under subrules (2) and (3) of this rule shall also comply with all of the following:
  - (a) Examine and evaluate the patient or client before delegating limited assessments, tasks, or interventions to be performed by an occupational therapy assistant.
  - (b) Supervise an occupational therapy assistant to whom limited assessments, tasks, or interventions have been delegated.
  - (c) Provide predetermined procedures and protocols for limited assessments, tasks, or interventions that have been delegated.
  - (d) Monitor an occupational therapy assistant's practice and provision of assigned limited assessments, tasks, or interventions.
  - (e) Maintain a record of the names of the occupational therapy assistants to whom limited assessments, tasks, or interventions have been delegated pursuant to section 16213 of the code, MCL 333.16213.
  - (f) Meet using live, synchronous contact at least once per month with the occupational therapy assistant to whom limited assessments, tasks, or interventions have been delegated to evaluate the assistant's performance, review client or patient records, and educate the occupational therapy assistant on the limited assessments, tasks, or interventions that have been delegated to facilitate professional growth and development. The occupational therapist shall maintain documentation of the meeting that has been signed by both the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant. Compliance with this subdivision shall not be used as a substitute for the ongoing supervision required under subrules (3) and (4) of this rule.
- (5) An occupational therapist shall not delegate the performance of either of the following to an occupational therapy assistant:
  - (a) The sole development of a treatment plan.

(b) The sole evaluation and interpretation of evaluation	tion results.
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(6) An occupational therapist shall not supervise more than 4 occupational therapy assistants who are providing services to patients at the same time.

### **Minnesota**

# <u>Statute:</u> Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 148, Section 148.6402 DEFINITIONS

"Direct supervision" of an occupational therapy assistant using physical agent modalities means that the occupational therapist has evaluated the patient and determined a need for use of a particular physical agent modality in the occupational therapy treatment plan, has determined the appropriate physical agent modality application procedure, and is available for in-person intervention while treatment is provided.

"Occupational therapy assistant" means an individual who meets the qualifications for an occupational therapy assistant in sections 148.6401 to 148.6449 and is licensed by the board.

# Statute: Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 148, Section 148.6402 SUPERVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANTS

1.Applicability.

If the professional standards identified in section 148.6430 permit an occupational therapist to delegate an evaluation, reevaluation, or treatment procedure, the occupational therapist must provide supervision consistent with this section.

2.Evaluations.

The occupational therapist shall determine the frequency of evaluations and reevaluations for each client. The occupational therapy assistant shall inform the occupational therapist of the need for more frequent reevaluation if indicated by the client's condition or response to treatment. Before delegating a portion of a client's evaluation pursuant to section 148.6430, the occupational therapist shall ensure the service competency of the occupational therapy assistant in performing the evaluation procedure and shall provide supervision consistent with the condition of the patient or client and the complexity of the evaluation procedure.

#### 3.Treatment.

- (a) The occupational therapist shall determine the frequency and manner of supervision of an occupational therapy assistant performing treatment procedures delegated pursuant to section 148.6430, based on the condition of the patient or client, the complexity of the treatment procedure, and the proficiencies of the occupational therapy assistant.
- (b) Face-to-face collaboration between the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant shall occur, at a minimum, every two weeks, during which time the occupational therapist is responsible for:
  - (1) planning and documenting an initial treatment plan and discharge from treatment;
  - (2) reviewing treatment goals, therapy programs, and client progress;
  - (3) supervising changes in the treatment plan;
  - (4) conducting or observing treatment procedures for selected clients and documenting appropriateness of treatment procedures. Clients shall be selected based on the occupational therapy services provided to the client and the role of the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant in those services; and
  - (5) ensuring the service competency of the occupational therapy assistant in performing delegated treatment procedures.
- (c) Face-to-face collaboration must occur more frequently than every two weeks if necessary to meet the requirements of paragraph (a) or (b).
- (d) The occupational therapist shall document compliance with this subdivision in the client's file or chart.

### 4.Exception.

The supervision requirements of this section do not apply to an occupational therapy assistant who:

(1) works in an activities program; and

	(2) does not perform occupational therapy services.
	The occupational therapy assistant must meet all other applicable requirements of sections 148.6401 to 148.6449.
Mississippi	Statute: Mississippi Code Annotated Title 73, Chapter 24, Section 3
	Definitions.

The following words and phrases shall have the following meanings, unless the context requires otherwise:

(g) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of or with the consultation of the licensed occupational therapist, and whose license is in good standing.

### Regulation: Mississippi Administrative Code Title 15, Part 19, Subpart 60, Chapter 8 Subchapter 1 General

Rule 8.1.3 Definitions: The following terms shall have the meaning set forth below, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 11. Occupational Therapy Assistant means a person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of or with the consultation of a licensed occupational therapist and whose license is in good standing.
- 14. Direct supervision means the daily, direct, on-site contact at all times of a licensed occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant when an occupational therapy aide assists in the delivery of patient care.

### **Subchapter 10 Occupational Therapy Assistant**

Rule 8.10.1 Definition: An occupational therapy assistant (OTA), shall be defined as an individual who meets the qualifications and requirements as set forth in Subchapter 4 of these regulations, and has been issued a license by the Department. The roles and responsibilities of an OTA are:

- 1. To practice only under the supervision of, or in consultation with, an occupational therapist licensed to practice in Mississippi.
- 2. To assist with but not perform total patient evaluations.
- 3. To perform treatment procedures as delegated by the occupational therapist.
- 4. To supervise other supportive personnel as charged by the occupational therapist.
- 5. To notify the occupational therapist of changes in the patient's status, including all untoward patient responses.
- 6. To discontinue immediately any treatment procedures which in their judgment appear to be harmful to the patient.
- 7. To refuse to carry out treatment procedures that they believe to be not in the best interest of the patient.

# Rule 8.10.2 Supervision or Consultation:

- 1. An occupational therapy assistant issued a limited permit (see Rule 8.4.5).
- 2. An occupational therapy assistant issued a regular license.
  - a. Supervision or consultation which means face-to-face meetings of supervisor and supervisee (OT and OTA) to review and evaluate treatment and progress at the work site, and regular interim communication between the supervisor and supervisee. A face-to-face meeting is held at least once every seventh treatment day or 21 calendar days, whichever comes first.
  - b. The supervising occupational therapist must be accessible by telecommunications to the occupational therapy assistant on a daily basis while the occupational therapy assistant is treating patients.
  - c. Regardless of the practice setting, the following requirements must be observed when the occupational therapist is supervising or consulting with the occupational therapy assistant:
    - i. The initial visit for evaluation of the patient and establishment of a plan of care must be made by the supervising or consulting occupational therapist.

- ii. A joint supervisory visit must be made by the supervising occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant with the patient present at the patient's residence or treatment setting once every 7 treatment days or every 21 days, whichever comes first.
- iii. A supervisory visit should include:
  - 1. A review of activities with appropriate revision or termination of the plan of care;
  - 2. An assessment of utilization of outside resources (whenever applicable);
  - 3. Documentary evidence of such visit;
  - 4. Discharge planning as indicated.
- iv. An occupational therapist may not supervise/consult with more than two (2) occupational therapy assistants except in school settings, or settings where maintenance or tertiary type services are provided, such as the regional treatment centers under the direction of the Department of Mental Health.
- 4. The supervision/consultation requirements stated in these regulations are minimal. It is the professional responsibility and duty of the licensed occupational therapist to provide the occupational therapist assistant with more supervision if deemed necessary in the occupational therapist's professional judgment.

### Missouri

# Statute: Missouri Revised Statutes Title XXII, Chapter 324 324.050 Occupational therapy practice act – definitions.

- 2. For the purposes of sections 324.050 to 324.089, the following terms mean:
- (8) "Occupational therapy assistant", a person who is licensed as an occupational therapy assistant by the division, in collaboration with the board. The function of an occupational therapy assistant is to assist an occupational therapist in the delivery of occupational therapy services in compliance with federal regulations and rules promulgated by the division, in collaboration with the Missouri board of occupational therapy.

### 324.056 License to practice required, when — supervision of occupational therapy assistants.

2. A licensed occupational therapy assistant shall be directly supervised by a licensed occupational therapist. The licensed occupational therapist shall have the responsibility of supervising the occupational therapy treatment program. No licensed occupational therapist shall have under his or her direct supervision more than four occupational therapy assistants.

### Regulation: Missouri Code of State Regulations Title 20, Division 2205, Chapter 4

# 20 CSR 2205-4.010 Supervision of Occupational Therapy Assistants and Occupational Therapy Assistant Limited Permit Holders

- (1) An occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder shall assist an occupational therapist in the delivery of occupational therapy services in compliance with all state and federal statutes, regulations, and rules.
- (2) The occupational therapy assistant or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder may only perform services under the direct supervision of an occupational therapist.
  - (A) The manner of supervision shall depend on the treatment setting, patient/client caseload, and the competency of the occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder as determined by the supervising occupational therapist. At a minimum, supervision shall include consultation of the occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder with the supervising occupational therapist prior to the initiation of any patient's/client's treatment plan and modification of treatment plan.
  - (B) More frequent face-to-face supervision may be necessary as determined by the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder dependent on the level of expertise displayed by the occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder, the practice setting, and/or the complexity of the patient/client caseload.

- (C) Supervision shall be an interactive process between the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder. It shall be more than peer review or co-signature. The interactive process shall include but is not limited to the patient/client assessment, reassessment, treatment plan, intervention, discontinuation of intervention, and/or treatment plan.
- (D) The supervising occupational therapist or the supervisor's designee must be available for immediate consultation with the occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder. The supervisor need not be physically present or on the premises at all times.
- (3) The supervising occupational therapist has the overall responsibility for providing the necessary supervision to protect the health and welfare of the patient/client receiving treatment from an occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder. The supervising occupational therapist shall—
  - (A) Be licensed by the board as an occupational therapist, this shall not include a limited permit holder;
  - (B) Have a minimum of one (1) year experience as a licensed occupational therapist;
  - (C) Not be under restriction or discipline from any licensing board or jurisdiction;
  - (D) Not have more than four (4) full-time equivalent (FTE) occupational therapy assistants under his/her supervision at one time;
  - (E) Be responsible for all referrals of the patient/client;
  - (F) Be responsible for completing the patient's evaluation/assessment. The occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder may contribute to the screening and/or evaluation process by gathering data, administering standardized tests and reporting observations. The occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder may not evaluate independently or initiate treatment before the supervising occupational therapist's evaluation/assessment;
  - (G) Be responsible for developing and modifying the patient's treatment plan. The treatment plan must include goals, interventions, frequency, and duration of treatment. The occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder may contribute to the preparation, implementation and documentation of the treatment plan. The supervising occupational therapist shall be responsible for the outcome of the treatment plan and assigning of appropriate intervention plans to the occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder within the competency level of the occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder;
  - (H) Be responsible for developing the patient's discharge plan. The occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder may contribute to the preparation, implementation and documentation of the discharge plan. The supervising occupational therapist shall be responsible for the outcome of the discharge plan and assigning of appropriate tasks to the occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder within the competency level of the occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder; and
  - (I) Ensure that all patient/client documentation becomes a part of the permanent record.
- (4) The supervising occupational therapist has the overall responsibility for providing the necessary supervision to protect the health and welfare of the patient/client receiving treatment from an occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder. However, this does not absolve the occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder from his/her professional responsibilities. The occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder shall exercise sound judgement and provide adequate care in the performance of duties. The occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder shall—
  - (A) Not initiate any patient/client treatment program or modification of said program until the supervising occupational therapist has evaluated, established a treatment plan and consulted with the occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder;
  - (B) Not perform an evaluation/assessment, but may contribute to the screening and/or evaluation process by gathering data, administering standardized tests and reporting observations;

	<ul> <li>(C) Not analyze or interpret evaluation data;</li> <li>(D) Track the need for reassessment and report changes in status that might warrant reassessment or referral;</li> <li>(E) Immediately suspend any treatment intervention that appears harmful to the patient/client and immediately notify the supervising occupational therapist; and</li> <li>(F) Ensure that all patient/client documentation prepared by the occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder becomes a part of the permanent record.</li> <li>(5) The supervisor shall ensure that the occupational therapy assistant and/or occupational therapy assistant limited permit holder provides occupational therapy as defined in section 324.050, RSMo appropriate to and consistent with his/her education, training,</li> </ul>
	and experience.
Montana	Statute: Montana Code Annotated Title 37, Chapter 24, Part 1 37-24-103 Definitions  As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:  (2) "Certified occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under this chapter, who works under the general supervision of an occupational therapist in accordance with the provisions of the national board for certification in occupational therapy, inc., and adopted by the board.  (7) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person who is licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under this chapter and who works under the general supervision of an occupational therapist.
	Regulation: Administrative Regulations of Montana 24.165 Subchapter 3 Definitions 24.165.302 DEFINITIONS For the purpose of this chapter the following definitions apply:  (4) "Direct supervision" means the supervisor is physically present in the direct treatment area of the client-related activity being performed by the supervisee and requires face-to-face communication, direction, observation, and daily evaluation.  (6) "General supervision" means the supervisor provides face-to-face communication, direction, observation, and evaluation of a supervisee's delivery of client services at least monthly at the site of client-related activity, with interim supervision occurring by other methods, such as telephonic, electronic, or written communication.
	Subchapter 5 Licensing and Scope of Practice 24.165.501 SUPERVISION (1) Supervisors shall determine the required level of supervision based on the supervisee's clinical experience, responsibilities, and competence. (2) Occupational therapists do not require supervision except for direct supervision of proctored treatments. (3) Except per 37-24-105(2) and 37-24-106(2), MCA, certified occupational therapy assistants must work under the general supervision of an occupational therapist.
Nebraska	Statute: Nebraska Revised Statutes, Chapter 38 38-2512 Occupational therapy assistant, defined. Occupational therapy assistant means a person holding a current license to assist in the practice of occupational therapy.  38-2527 Occupational therapy assistant; supervision required.
	An occupational therapy assistant may deliver occupational therapy services enumerated in section 38-2526 in collaboration with and under the supervision of an occupational therapist.

# Regulation: Nebraska Administrative Code Title 172, Chapter 114 114-002 DEFINITIONS

Certified occupational therapy assistant means a person who is certified pursuant to guidelines established by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT).

Occupational therapy assistant means a person holding a current license to assist in the practice of occupational therapy.

Onsite means the location where the occupational therapy assistant is providing occupational therapy services.

Onsite supervision means the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant must be physically present at the practice site to direct all actions when occupational therapy services are being provided.

Supervision means the process by which the quantity and quality of work of an occupational therapy assistant is monitored. Supervision means the directing of the authorized activities of an occupational therapy assistant by a licensed occupational therapist and will not be construed to require the physical presence of the supervisor when carrying out assigned duties.

#### 114-005 REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION TO APPLY PHYSICAL AGENT MODALITIES

114-005.01A1 An occupational therapy assistant may only set up and implement superficial thermal agent modalities under the onsite supervision of an occupational therapist certified to administer superficial thermal agent modalities.

#### 114-006 REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSULTING WITH OR SUPERVISING AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

- 114-006.01 If an occupational therapist is supervising or consulting with an occupational therapy assistant, s/he must meet the following standards:
- 1. Evaluate each patient prior to treatment by the occupational therapy assistant;
- 2. Develop a treatment plan outlining which elements have been delegated to the occupational therapy assistant;
- 3. Monitor patient's progress;
- 4. Approve any change in the occupational therapy treatment plan;
- 5. Ensure that the occupational therapy assistant is assigned only to duties and responsibilities for which s/he has been specifically trained and is qualified to perform;
- 6. Review all documentation written by the occupational therapy assistant;
- 7. Interpret the results of tests which are administered by the occupational therapy assistant; and
- 8. Evaluate the treatment plan and determine termination of treatment.

114-006.02 An occupational therapist supervising an occupational therapy assistant must, in addition to the standards pursuant to 172 NAC 114-006.01, provide the following:

- 1. A minimum of four hours per month of on-site supervision if an occupational therapy assistant has more than one year satisfactory work experience as an occupational therapy assistant; or
- 2. A minimum of eight hours per month of on-site supervision if an occupational therapy assistant has less than one year satisfactory work experience as an occupational therapy assistant.

#### 114-007 ROLE DELINEATION FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

A licensed occupational therapy assistant may perform the following duties while under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist or while consulting with a licensed occupational therapist:

- 1. Explain overall occupational therapy services to client, family, or others who have legitimate interest in the case;
- 2. Solicit referrals from appropriate sources or acknowledge referrals received before or after initial screening for the purpose of initiating occupational therapy services by:
  - a. Responding to a request for service by relaying information or formal referral to the licensed occupational therapist; and
  - b. Entering cases as appropriate to standards of facility, department and profession when authorized by supervising occupational therapist.
- 3. Assess the need for, nature of, and estimated time of treatment, determining the needed coordination with other persons involved and documenting the activities by:
  - a. Screening clients to determine client's need for occupational therapy services. This may occur before or after referral by:
    - (1) Obtaining and reviewing written information about the client from medical records, school records, therapist records, etc.;
    - (2) Interviewing client, family, or others with legitimate interest in the case using a structured guide to obtain general history and information about family history, selfcare abilities, academic history, vocational history, play history, and leisure interest and experiences; and
    - (3) Organizing, summarizing, and recording data collected by occupational therapy assistant and reporting such data to licensed occupational therapist.
  - b. Observing clients while engaged in individual and/or group activity to collect general data and report on independent living/daily living skills, selected sensorimotor skills, cognitive skills, and psychosocial skills;
  - c. Administering standardized and criterion referenced tests as directed by licensed occupational therapist to collect data on independent living/daily living skills and performance, sensorimotor developmental status, and cognitive skills and performance in the area of orientation;
  - d. Summarizing, recording, and reporting own evaluation data to licensed occupational therapist;
  - e. Assisting with the evaluation of the data collected; and
  - f. Reporting evaluation data as determined by the licensed occupational therapist to other appropriate persons.
- 4. Assist with the identification and documentation of achievable treatment goals to develop, improve, and/or restore the performance of necessary functions, compensate for dysfunction, and/or minimize debilitation in the areas of:
  - a. Independent living/daily living skills and performance;
  - b. Sensorimotor skills and performance in gross and fine coordination, strength and endurance, range of motion, and tactile awareness:
  - c. Cognitive skills and performance; and
  - d. Psychosocial skills and performance.
- 5. Assist in the identification and documentation of treatment methods by selecting occupational therapy techniques, media, and determining sequence of activities to attain goals in areas designated pursuant to 172 NAC 114-007.04 item 1 by:
  - a. Analyzing activities in reference to client's interests and abilities, major motor processes, complexity, steps involved, and extent to which it can be modified or adapted;
  - b. Adapting techniques/media to meet client need; and
  - c. Discussing occupational therapy treatment plan with client, family, others with legitimate interests and staff.

- 6. Assist with implementation or modification of a treatment plan by the use of specific activities or methods which improve or restore performance of necessary functions; compensate for dysfunction; and/or minimize debilitation. The occupational therapy assistant, under the direction of a licensed occupational therapist, will:
  - a. Engage client in purposeful activity, in conjunction with therapeutic methods, to achieve goals identified in the treatment plan in the following areas:
    - (1) Independent living/daily living skills which include physical, psychological, emotional, work, and play;
    - (2) Sensorimotor components which include neuromuscular, tactile awareness, and postural balance;
    - (3) Cognitive components which include orientation and conceptualization;
    - (4) Therapeutic adaptation which includes orthotics, and assistive/adaptive equipment; and
    - (5) Prevention which includes energy conservation, joint protection/body mechanics, positioning and coordination of daily living skills.
  - b. Orient family and others about the activities being utilized in the treatment plan;
  - c. Provide instruction to client, family, and others with a legitimate interest in how to implement the home program developed by the licensed occupational therapist; and
  - d. Observe medical and safety precautions.
- 7. Assist in determining the need to terminate occupational therapy services when the client has achieved the treatment plan goals and/or has achieved maximum benefit from the services. The following steps must be taken:
  - a. Discuss need for treatment plan discontinuation with licensed occupational therapist;
  - b. Assist in preparing occupational therapy discharge plan by recommending adaptations to client's everyday environment;
  - c. Assist in identifying community resources; and
  - d. Assist in summarizing and documenting outcome of the occupational therapy treatment plan.
- 8. Participate in planning, organizing, and delivery of occupational therapy services by:
  - a. Planning daily schedule according to assigned workload;
  - b. Preparing and maintaining work setting, equipment, and supplies;
  - c. Ordering supplies and equipment according to established procedures;
  - d. Maintaining records according to Department procedure;
  - e. Ensuring safety and maintenance of program areas and equipment; and
  - f. Assisting with compiling and analyzing data of total occupational therapy service.
- 9. An occupational therapy assistant who is licensed by the State of Nebraska and has one year of practice experience can supervise an occupational therapy assistant student.

#### Nevada

### Statute: Nevada Revised Statutes 640A.070

"Occupational therapy assistant" means a person who is licensed pursuant to this chapter to practice occupational therapy under the general supervision of an occupational therapist.

# Regulation: Nevada Administrative Code Chapter 640A NAC 640A.010 Definitions.

640A.012 "Certified occupational therapy assistant" means a person who is certified as an occupational therapy assistant by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, Inc., or its successor organization.

640A.0143 "Primary supervisor" means a licensed occupational therapist who is responsible for the general supervision of an occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee during his or her term of employment.

640A.0165 "Supervision" means a collaborative process for the responsible, periodic review and inspection of all aspects of any occupational therapy services provided.

# NAC 640A.250 Occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee: Practice under general supervision of occupational therapist.

- 1. An occupational therapy assistant or a provisional licensee shall not practice occupational therapy without the general supervision of an occupational therapist. Immediate physical presence or constant presence on the premises where the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee is practicing is not required of the occupational therapist. To provide satisfactory general supervision, the treating occupational therapist shall:
  - (a) Provide an initial program of intervention, and any subsequent changes to the initial program, for patients assigned to the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee.
  - (b) Not less than 1 hour for each 40 hours of work performed by the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee and, in any event, not less than 1 hour each month, engage in:
    - (1) Clinical observation of the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee; or
    - (2) Direct communication with the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee. The mode and frequency of that communication is dependent upon the setting for the practice of the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee. Direct communication may consist of, without limitation:
      - (I) Direct or joint treatment of a patient;
      - (II) Personal supervision of the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee while providing services;
      - (III) Conversation, in person or by telephone;
      - (IV) Exchange of written comments;
      - (V) Review of patient records; or
      - (VI) Conferences, or other face-to-face meetings.
  - (c) Establish the patient workload of the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee based on the competency of the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee as determined by the occupational therapist.
  - (d) Review written documentation prepared by the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee during the course of treatment of a patient. The completion of this review by the occupational therapist may be evidenced by:
    - (1) Preparation of a separate progress note; or
    - (2) The occupational therapist signing and dating the document prepared by the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee.
- 2. The treating occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee shall jointly:
  - (a) Document, in a manner other than the mere signing of service records prepared by another person, the supervision required pursuant to this section by preparing, without limitation:
    - (1) Daily or weekly treatment or intervention schedules;
    - (2) Logs of supervision, which must include, without limitation, the time and date of supervision, the type of supervision provided and the subject matter covered during the supervision; and
    - (3) Patient records.
  - (b) Ensure that the record regarding a patient treated by the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee is signed, dated and reviewed at least monthly by the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee and the occupational therapist. In reviewing the record, the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee shall verify, without limitation:
    - (1) The accuracy of the record; and
    - (2) That there is continuity in the services received by the patient pursuant to the program of intervention.

- 3. An occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee may assist an occupational therapist in:
  - (a) Preparing and disseminating any written or oral reports, including, without limitation, the final evaluation and discharge summary of a patient;
  - (b) Unless the treatment is terminated by a patient or his or her provider of health care, determining when to terminate treatment; and
  - (c) Delegating duties to an occupational therapy aide or technician.
- 4. An occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee shall document all treatment provided to a patient by the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee.
- 5. An occupational therapist shall not delegate responsibilities to an occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee which are beyond the scope of the training of the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee.
- 6. The provisions of this section do not prohibit an occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee from responding to acute changes in a patient's condition that warrant immediate assistance or treatment.
- 7. As used in this section, "sign" means to inscribe by handwriting or electronic means one's name, initials or license number.

# NAC 640A.255 Occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee: Review and approval of supervisory logs by primary supervisor; general supervision by treating occupational therapist.

- 1. A primary supervisor of an occupational therapy assistant or a provisional licensee shall review and approve monthly supervisory logs maintained by both the treating occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee.
- 2. A treating occupational therapist shall provide general supervision, as described in NAC 640A.250, to an occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee to whom he or she delegated duties for the provision of care to a patient.

# NAC 640A.260 Occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee: Verification to Board of employment and supervision; notice of termination; number of primary supervisors required per employer of record.

- 1. An occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee shall submit verification of his or her employment and supervision by a primary supervisor to the Board within 30 days after a change in the employment or primary supervisor. The verification must be submitted in a format approved by the Board.
- 2. An occupational therapist who is a primary supervisor shall notify the Board within 30 days after the termination of his or her supervision of an occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee.
- 3. An occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee must have at least one primary supervisor and may have one alternate primary supervisor for each employer of record.

# NAC 640A.265 Occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee: Delegation of duties by treating occupational therapist; limitations.

- 1. A treating occupational therapist shall supervise any program of intervention which is delegated to an occupational therapy assistant or provisional licensee.
- 2. Only an occupational therapist may:
  - (a) Interpret the record of a patient who is referred to the occupational therapist by a provider of health care;
  - (b) Interpret the evaluation of a patient and identify any problem of the patient;
  - (c) Develop a plan of care for a patient based upon the initial evaluation of the patient, which includes the goal of the treatment of the patient;
  - (d) Determine the appropriate portion of the program of intervention and evaluation to be delegated to an occupational therapy assistant:
  - (e) Delegate the treatment to be administered by the occupational therapy assistant;

- (f) Instruct the occupational therapy assistant regarding:
  - (1) The specific program of intervention of a patient:
  - (2) Any precaution to be taken to protect a patient;
  - (3) Any special problem of a patient;
  - (4) Any procedure which should not be administered to a patient; and
  - (5) Any other information required to treat a patient;
- (g) Review the program of intervention of a patient in a timely manner;
- (h) Record the goal of treatment of a patient; and
- (i) Revise the plan of care when indicated.
- 3. A treating occupational therapist may delegate to an occupational therapist who holds a provisional license any of the activities identified in subsection 2.
- 4. Except as otherwise provided in NAC 640A.267, a licensee shall not knowingly delegate to a person who is less qualified than the licensee any program of intervention which requires the skill, common knowledge and judgment of the licensee.

### New Hampshire

### **<u>Statute:</u>** New Hampshire Statutes Title XXX, Chapter 326-C

#### Section 326-C.1 Definitions.

In this chapter and RSA 328-F, unless the context otherwise requires:

IV. "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person currently licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy, under the supervision of an occupational therapist, in the state of New Hampshire.

#### Regulations: New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Title Occ

#### Chapter Occ 100 ORGANIZATIONAL RULES

#### Part Occ 102 DEFINITIONS

Occ. 102.04 "Occupational therapy assistant (OTA)" means "occupational therapy assistant" as defined in RSA 326-C:1, IV, namely, "a person currently licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy, under the supervision of an occupational therapist, in the state of New Hampshire."

### **Chapter Occ 300 REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE**

#### Part Occ 301 Definitions.

Occ 301.04 "Direct supervision" means supervision through direct and continuous observation of the activities of the person being supervised.

Occ 301.05 "Indirect supervision" means supervision through the supervisor's review of the treatment progress notes made by the person supervised, telephone conversations between the supervisor and the person supervised, electronic correspondence between the supervisor and the person supervised or any other form of supervision which is not direct supervision.

# Chapter Occ 400 CONTINUED STATUS Part 408 ONGOING REQUIREMENTS

Occ 408.06 Supervision of Occupational Therapy Assistants.

- (a) Occupational therapy assistants shall be supervised in their work in occupational therapy by occupational therapists:
  - (1) Who meet the description in Occ 408.07;
  - (2) In accordance with the requirements of (b), (c) and (d) below; and
  - (3) For periods longer than those set forth in (b), (c) and (d) below whenever such longer periods are required for accurate implementation of treatment plans.

- (b) Occupational therapy assistants with less than one year of paid experience in occupational therapy shall be directly supervised at least 5% of their work time and indirectly supervised an additional 10% of their work time.
- (c) Occupational therapy assistants with one to 5 years of paid experience in occupational therapy shall be directly supervised during at least 5% of their work time and indirectly supervised an additional 5% of their work time.
- (d) Occupational therapy assistants with greater than 5 years of paid experience in occupational therapy shall receive both direct and indirect supervision during 5% of their work time.

Occ 408.07 Qualifications to be a Supervisor. To qualify to supervise occupational therapy assistants individuals shall be:

- (a) Currently licensed in New Hampshire as occupational therapists;
- (b) Not under disciplinary investigation by the board or under pending disciplinary charges in the facilities where supervision is to take place; and
- (c) Not related in any of the following ways to the occupational therapy assistants being supervised:
  - (1) Spouse;
  - (2) Parent, step-parent, parent-in-law or step-parent in-law;
  - (3) Natural, foster or adopted child or stepchild;
  - (4) Sibling, brother-in-law or sister-in-law;
  - (5) First or second cousin;
  - (6) Grandparent; or
  - (7) Aunt or uncle.

Occ 408.08 Limitation on Number of Occupational Therapy Assistants Under Supervision. An occupational therapist shall not supervise at any one time more occupational therapy assistants than those whose combined work hours total the work hours of 2 full-time occupational therapy assistants.

Occ 408.09 Occupational Therapy Assistants' Obligation to Present Supervision Rules to Supervisors and to Report Supervision to the Board.

- (a) Before beginning work in occupational therapy, an occupational therapy assistant shall:
  - (1) Give to the person intending to provide supervision to the assistant a copy of Occ 408.06-Occ 408.10 and the supervision form;
  - (2) Discuss the supervision requirements with the person intending to provide supervision; and
  - (3) Submit to the board the completed supervision form.
- (b) An occupational therapy assistant shall submit a revised or additional supervision form to the board:
  - (1) Within 30 days of the date of change each time there is a change in the person providing supervision to the assistant; and
  - (2) Whenever the occupational therapy assistant takes on a second employer.

#### Occ 408.10 Supervision Form.

- (a) The supervision form shall:
  - (1) Be completed on the "Supervision Form" dated March 25, 2015;
  - (2) Be provided by the board and available on the boards web site, www.nh.gov/alliedhealth;
  - (3) Be completed legibly in ink or using a keyboard; and
  - (4) Be signed and dated below the following preprinted statement:
  - "By signing this form I state that I have read and understood the applicable rules of supervision or order of the Board for supervision, agree to undertake the duties of supervision set forth in the rules or order of the Board, agree to be responsible for

the acts and omissions of any person to whom I delegate the duties of supervision, and acknowledge that my own or my delegate's failure to comply with the rules or order of the Board might result in disciplinary sanctions."

- (d) The signature required by (c)(3) above shall constitute the signer's:
  - (1) Assertion that the signer has read and understood the rules or order of the Board governing the supervision;
  - (2) Agreement to undertake the duties of supervision;
  - (3) Agreement to take responsibility for the acts and omissions of any individual to whom the signer delegates the duties of supervision; and
  - (4) Statement of understanding that the failure of the signer or the signer's delegate to follow the rules or order of the Board governing the supervision has the potential to subject the signer to disciplinary sanctions.

### **New Jersey**

#### Statute: 45:9-37.53.

#### Definitions.

"Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed pursuant to the provisions of this act to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of or in collaboration with an occupational therapist on a regularly scheduled basis for the purpose of the planning, review, or evaluation of occupational therapy services.

"Supervision" means the responsible and direct involvement of a licensed occupational therapist with an occupational therapy assistant for the development of an occupational therapy treatment plan and the periodic review of the implementation of that plan. The form and extent of the supervision shall be determined by the council.

# Regulation: New Jersey Administrative Code, 13:44K-1.2 DEFINITIONS

The following words and terms, as used in this chapter, shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed pursuant to the provisions of the Act and this chapter to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of an occupational therapist on a regularly scheduled basis for the purpose of planning, review or evaluation of occupational therapy services.

"Supervision" means the responsible and direct involvement of a licensed occupational therapist with an occupational therapy assistant, a temporary licensed occupational therapy licensed occupational therapy student fulfilling the required fieldwork component of his or her educational training, for the development of an occupational therapy treatment plan and the periodic review of the implementation of that plan. Such supervision shall be close, routine or general, consistent with the following:

- 1. "Close supervision" means daily, face-to-face contact with and frequent observation of the performance of the individual at the location where he or she is rendering services;
- 2. "Routine supervision" means face-to-face contact with and observation of the performance of the individual at least once a week at the location where he or she is rendering services; and
- 3. "General supervision" means face-to-face contact with and observation of the performance of the individual at least once every two weeks at the location where he or she is rendering services.

# <u>Regulation:</u> New Jersey Administrative Code, 13:44K-6.1 – 6.4 6.1 SUPERVISION REQUIREMENT

a) A licensed occupational therapy assistant or temporary licensed occupational therapist shall provide occupational therapy services only under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist pursuant to the provisions of this subchapter.

- b) A temporary licensed occupational therapy assistant shall work only under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist, or a licensed occupational therapy assistant who has been delegated supervisory responsibilities pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:44K-6.6, pursuant to the provisions of this subchapter.
- c) The supervising occupational therapist shall retain responsibility for the occupational therapy care of the client being treated by the licensed occupational therapy assistant, a temporary licensed occupational therapist, or a temporary licensed occupational therapy assistant.
- d) In the event of a change of the supervising occupational therapist, the subsequent supervisor shall assume responsibility for the ongoing supervision of any occupational therapy assistant(s), temporary licensed occupational therapy assistant(s) providing care to a client and shall become the designated supervisor.

#### 6.2 DESIGNATED SUPERVISOR: GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) Prior to supervising any person engaged in the practice of occupational therapy services, a licensed occupational therapist shall have at least 1,200 hours of work experience obtained in no less than one year and within three consecutive years of practice.
- b) A licensed occupational therapist shall not supervise more than five licensees, including occupational therapy assistants, temporary licensed occupational therapists or temporary licensed occupational therapy assistants.
- c) A licensed occupational therapist may supervise five occupational therapy students who are fulfilling the required fieldwork component of their educational training.
- d) Notwithstanding the provisions of (b) and (c) above, a licensed occupational therapist shall not supervise more than seven persons at one time.
- e) A designated supervisor shall maintain a written plan of supervision that shall include evidence of the ongoing supervision of each occupational therapy assistant and temporary licensee for whom the supervisor is responsible.

#### 6.3 RESPONSIBILITIES OF A DESIGNATED SUPERVISOR: OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT

- a) A designated supervisor shall be responsible for the close, routine, or general supervision of an occupational therapy assistant.
- b) A designated supervisor shall determine the level of supervision required of each occupational therapy assistant consistent with the condition of the client, the education, skill, and training of the occupational therapy assistant, and the nature of the tasks and activities to be performed by the occupational therapy assistant; provided, however, that a designated supervisor shall provide close supervision for any occupational therapy assistant who has been engaged in the practice of occupational therapy services for less than one year on a full-time basis.
  - 1) For purposes of this subsection, "full-time basis" means 1,200 hours of practice. No more than 30 hours of practice shall be obtained in any one week.
- c) When providing routine or general supervision of an occupational therapy assistant, a designated supervisor may also provide interim supervision of the occupational therapy assistant through telephonic or written communications, including reports and/or conferences, between the supervisor and the occupational therapy assistant.
- d) A designated supervisor who is unavailable to provide occupational therapy assistants with either routine or general supervision as required in (a), (b), or (c) above, for two or more contact periods, shall arrange for substitute supervision by a licensed occupational therapist, who shall follow the established plan of supervision.
- e) A designated supervisor who is unable to provide occupational therapy assistants with close supervision as required in (b) above, for more than one day, shall arrange for substitute supervision by a licensed occupational therapist, who shall follow the established plan of supervision.

#### 6.4 RESPONSIBILITIES OF A DESIGNATED SUPERVISOR: TEMPORARY LICENSE HOLDER

a) A designated supervisor shall be responsible for the close supervision of a temporary license holder.

b) A designated supervisor who is unavailable to provide a temporary license holder with supervision as required by (a) above, for more than one day, shall arrange for substitute supervision by a licensed occupational therapist, who shall follow the established plan of supervision.

#### 6.5 RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT AND TEMPORARY LICENSE HOLDER

- a) An occupational therapy assistant, a temporary licensed occupational therapist, or a temporary licensed occupational therapy assistant shall not render nor continue to render client care unless he or she has obtained ongoing direction from his or her designated supervisor.
- b) An occupational therapy assistant, a temporary licensed occupational therapist, and a temporary licensed occupational therapist assistant shall each be responsible for clients within the limits of his or her respective scope of practice pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:44K-5.1 or 5.2, as applicable.
- c) An occupational therapy assistant, a temporary licensed occupational therapist, and a temporary licensed occupational therapist assistant shall maintain a record of supervision, which shall include the name and license number of his or her designated supervisor, the date when the occupational therapy assistant or temporary licensee received supervision, and the type of supervision that was provided.

#### 6.6 DELEGATION OF SUP[ERVISION RESPONSIBILITIES

- a) A designated supervisor providing close supervision of an occupational therapy assistant, a temporary licensed occupational therapy assistant or an occupational therapy student, may delegate his or her supervisory responsibility for the daily, face-to-face contact with and frequent observation of the performance of the occupational therapy assistant, the temporary licensed occupational therapy assistant or the occupational therapy student, to an occupational therapy assistant who, in the professional judgment of the supervising occupational therapist, has been adequately prepared by verified training and education in the provision of occupational therapy services consistent with the requirements set forth at N.J.A.C. 13:44K-2.1.
- b) Notwithstanding the provisions of (a) above, no designated supervisor shall delegate his or her responsibilities for close supervision of an occupational therapy assistant to an occupational therapy assistant who has less than 3,600 hours of work experience obtained within a five year period in the particular practice area in which services are being provided.
- c) A licensed occupational therapy assistant who has been delegated supervision responsibilities pursuant to (a) and (b) above, shall not supervise more than three persons at one time.
- d) Notwithstanding the provisions of (a), (b) and (c) above, a licensed occupational therapist shall not supervise more than seven persons at one time, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.A.C. 13:44K-6.2.
- e) When supervision of an occupational therapy assistant, a temporary licensed occupational therapy assistant or an occupational therapy student is delegated pursuant to the provisions of (a), (b), (c) and (d) above, the supervising occupational therapist shall retain responsibility for all occupational therapy care of the client.

#### **New Mexico**

# <u>Statute:</u> New Mexico statutes, Article 12A 61-12A-3. Definitions.

H. "occupational therapy assistant" means a person having no less than an associate degree in occupational therapy and holding an active license to practice occupational therapy in New Mexico who assists an occupational therapist under the supervision of the occupational therapist.

### 61-12A-5. Supervision; required; defined.

A. Occupational therapy shall not be performed by an occupational therapy assistant, occupational therapy aide, or technician or by any person practicing on a provisional permit unless such therapy is supervised by an occupational therapist. The Board shall adopt rules defining supervision, which definitions may include various categories such as "close supervision", "routine supervision", and "general supervision".

### Regulation: New Mexico Administrative Code Title 16, Chapter 15

#### Part 1 General Provisions

16.15.1.7 Definitions

C. "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person having no less than an associate degree in occupational therapy and holding an active license to practice occupational therapy in New Mexico who assists an occupational therapist under the supervision of the occupational therapist.

#### Part 3 Supervision

#### 16.15.3.7 Definitions:

- A. "Aide" means a person who is not licensed by the board and who provides supportive services to occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants. An aide shall function under the guidance and responsibility of the occupational therapist and may be supervised by the occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant for specifically selected routine tasks for which the aide has been trained and has demonstrated competency.
- B. "Board" means the board of examiners for occupational therapy.
- C. "Competence" refers to an individual's capacity to perform job responsibilities.
- D. "Competency" refers to an individual's actual performance in a specific situation.
- E. "Limited permit holder" means an individual who has completed the academic and fieldwork requirements of this Act for occupational therapists or occupational therapy assistants, has not yet taken or received the results of the entry level certification examination, and has applied for and been granted limited permit status.
- F. "Occupational therapist" means a person who holds an active license to practice occupational therapy in New Mexico.
- G. "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person having no less than an associate degree in occupational therapy and holding an active license to practice occupational therapy in New Mexico who assists an occupational therapist under the supervision of the occupational therapist.
- H. "Supervision" means a cooperative process in which two or more people participate in a joint effort to establish, maintain, and elevate a level of competence and performance. Within the scope of occupational therapy practice, supervision is aimed at ensuring the safe and effective delivery of occupational therapy services and fostering professional competence and development.

#### 16.15.3.8 Supervision:

- A. Occupational therapy assistants: supervision involves guidance and oversight related to the delivery of occupational therapy services and the facilitation of professional growth and competence. It is the responsibility of the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant to seek the appropriate quality and frequency of supervision to ensure safe and effective occupational therapy service delivery.
  - (1) The specific frequency, methods, and content of supervision may vary by practice setting and is dependent upon the:
    - (a) complexity of client needs;
    - (b) number and diversity of clients;
    - (c) skills of the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant;
    - (d) type of practice setting;
    - (e) requirements of the practice setting; and
    - (f) other regulatory requirements.
  - (2) More frequent supervision may be necessary when:
    - (a) the needs of the client and the occupational therapy process are complex and changing;
    - (b) the practice setting provides occupational therapy services to a large number of clients with diverse needs; or

- (c) the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant determine that additional supervision is necessary to ensure safe and effective delivery of occupational therapy services.
- (3) A variety of types and methods of supervision may be used. Methods may include direct face-to-face contact and indirect contact. Examples of methods or types of supervision that involve direct face-to-face contact include but are not limited to observation, modeling, co-treatment, discussions, teaching, instruction, and video teleconferencing. Examples of methods or types of supervision that involve indirect contact include but are not limited to phone conversations, written correspondence, electronic exchanges, and other methods using secure telecommunication technology. All methods should be compliant with confidentiality requirements of government agencies, facilities, employers, or other appropriate bodies.
- (4) Occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants must document a supervision plan and supervision contacts. Documentation shall include the:
  - (a) frequency of supervisory contact;
  - (b) method(s) or type(s) of supervision;
  - (c) content areas addressed:
  - (d) names and credentials of the persons participating in the supervisory process.

16.15.3.9 Task Delegation: Regardless of the setting in which occupational therapy services are delivered, the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant assume the following generic responsibilities during evaluation, intervention, and outcomes evaluation.

#### A. Evaluation.

- (1) The occupational therapist directs the evaluation process.
- (2) The occupational therapist is responsible for directing all aspects of the initial contact during the occupational therapy evaluation, including:
  - (a) determining the need for service;
  - (b) defining the problems within the domain of occupational therapy that need to be addressed;
  - (c) determining the client's goals and priorities;
  - (d) establishing intervention priorities;
  - (e) determining specific further assessment needs; and
  - (f) determining specific assessment tasks that can be delegated to the occupational therapy assistant;
- (3) The occupational therapist initiates and directs the evaluation, interprets the data, and develops the intervention plan.
- (4) The occupational therapy assistant contributes to the evaluation process by implementing delegated assessments and by providing verbal and written reports of observations and client capacities to the occupational therapist.
- (5) The occupational therapist interprets the information provided by the occupational therapy assistant and integrates that information into the evaluation and decision making process.

### B. Intervention planning.

- (1) The occupational therapist has overall responsibility for the development of the occupational therapy intervention plan.
- (2) The occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant collaborate with the client to develop the plan.
- (3) The occupational therapy assistant is responsible for being knowledgeable about evaluation results and for providing input into the intervention plan, based on client needs and priorities.
- C. Intervention Implementation.
  - (1) The occupational therapist has overall responsibility for implementing the intervention.
  - (2) Then delegating aspects of the occupational therapy intervention to the occupational therapy assistant, the occupational therapist is responsible for providing appropriate supervision.

- (3) The occupational therapy assistant is responsible for being knowledgeable about the client's occupational therapy goals.
- (4) The occupational therapy assistant selects, implements, and makes modifications to therapeutic activities and interventions that are consistent with demonstrated competency levels, client goals, and the requirements of the practice setting.

#### D. Intervention Review.

- (1) The occupational therapist is responsible for determining the need for continuing, modifying, or discontinuing occupational therapy services.
- (2) The occupational therapy assistant contributes to this process by exchanging information with and providing documentation to the occupational therapist about the client's responses to and communications during intervention.

#### E. Outcome Evaluation.

- (1) The occupational therapist is responsible for selecting, measuring, and interpreting outcomes that are related to the client's ability to engage in occupations.
- (2) The occupational therapy assistant is responsible for being knowledgeable about the client's targeted occupational therapy outcomes and for providing information and documentation related to outcome achievement.
- (3) The occupational therapy assistant may implement outcome measurements and provide needed client discharge resources.

### **New York**

#### Statute: Laws of New York, Education Law, Article 156, §7902-a

#### Practice of occupational therapy assistant and use of the title "occupational therapy assistant."

Only a person licensed or otherwise authorized under this title shall participate in the practice of occupational therapy as an occupational therapy assistant or use the title "occupational therapy assistant." Practice as an occupational therapy assistant shall include the providing of occupational therapy and client related services under the direction and supervision of an occupational therapist or licensed physician in accordance with the commissioner's regulations.

#### §7906 Exempt persons.

This article shall not be construed to affect or prevent the following, provided that no title, sign, card or device shall be used in such manner as to tend to convey the impression that the person rendering such service is a licensed occupational therapist:

7. The following people from working under the direct supervision of a licensed occupational therapist: An individual employed by the state or municipal government at the effective date of this article who performs supportive services in occupational therapy solely for the time such person continues in that employment.

# <u>Regulations:</u> New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations Title 8, Chapter II, Part 76 §76.8 Supervision of an occupational therapy assistant.

- a. A written supervision plan, acceptable to the occupational therapist or licensed physician providing direction and supervision, shall be required for each occupational therapy assistant providing services pursuant to section 7902-a of the Education Law. The written supervision plan shall specify the names, professions and other credentials of the persons participating in the supervisory process, the frequency of formal supervisory contacts, the methods (e.g., in-person, by telephone) and types (e.g., review of charts, discussion with occupational therapy assistant) of supervision, the content areas to be addressed, how written treatment notes and reports will be reviewed, including, but not limited to, whether such notes and reports will be initialed or co-signed by the supervisor, and how professional development will be fostered.
- b. Documentation of supervision shall include the date and content of each formal supervisory contact as identified in the written supervision plan and evidence of the review of all treatment notes, reports and assessments.

- c. Consistent with the requirements of this section, the determination of the level and type of supervision shall be based on the ability level and experience of the occupational therapy assistant providing the delegated occupational therapy services, the complexity of client needs, the setting in which the occupational therapy assistant is providing the services, and consultation with the occupational therapy assistant.
- d. The supervision plan shall require that the occupational therapist or licensed physician be notified whenever there is a clinically significant change in the condition or performance of the client, so that an appropriate supervisory action can take place.
- e. Direction and supervision means that the occupational therapist or licensed physician:
  - 1. initiates, directs and participates in the initial evaluation, interprets the evaluation data, and develops the occupational therapy services plan with input from the occupational therapy assistant;
  - 2. participates, on a regular basis, in the delivery of occupational therapy services;
  - 3. is responsible for determining the need for continuing, modifying, or discontinuing occupational therapy services, after considering any reports by the occupational therapy assistant of any changes in the condition of the client that would require a change in the treatment plan;
  - 4. takes into consideration information provided about the client's responses to and communications during occupational therapy services; and
  - 5. is available for consultation with the occupational therapy assistant in a timely manner, taking into consideration the practice setting, the condition of the client and the occupational therapy services being provided.
- f. In no event shall the occupational therapist or licensed physician supervise more than five occupational therapy assistants, or its full time equivalent, provided that the total number of occupational therapy assistants being supervised by a single occupational therapist or licensed physician shall not exceed 10.

### **North Carolina**

# <u>Statute:</u> North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 90, Article 18D 90-270.67 DEFINITIONS

3. Occupational therapy assistant. - An individual licensed in good standing to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under this Article, who performs activities commensurate with his or her education and training under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist.

# Regulations: North Carolina Administrative Code Title 21, Chapter 38 21 NCAC 38.0103 DEFINITIONS

- (14) "Occupational therapy practitioner" means an individual licensed by the Board as an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant.
- (21) "Supervision" is the process by which two or more people participate in joint effort to establish, maintain, and elevate a level of performance to ensure the safety and welfare of clients during occupational therapy. Supervision is structured according to the supervisee's qualifications, position, level of preparation, depth of experience and the environment within which the supervisee functions. Levels of supervision are:
  - (a) "General supervision," which is required for all occupational therapy assistants by an occupational therapist. It includes a variety of types and methods of supervision and may include observation, modeling, co-treatment, discussions, teaching, instruction, phone conversations, videoconferencing, written correspondence, electronic exchanges, and other telecommunication technology. Methods of observation include face-to-face, synchronous or asynchronous videoconferencing. The specific frequency, methods, and content of supervision may vary by practice setting and are dependent on the complexity of client needs, number and diversity of clients, demonstrated service competency of the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant, type of practice setting, requirements of the practice setting, and federal and state regulatory requirements. General supervision shall be required at least monthly; and

(b) "Direct supervision," which is required for all unlicensed personnel and volunteers. It means the Occupational Therapy supervisor must be within audible and visual range of the client and unlicensed personnel and available for immediate physical intervention. Videoconferencing is not allowed for direct supervision.

#### 21 NCAC 38 .0901 NOTIFICATION OF SUPERVISION CHANGE

Occupational therapy assistants and supervising occupational therapists must notify the Board office in writing of any change in ceasing or assuming supervision. The occupational therapist is responsible for supervision of the occupational therapy assistant until official notice that supervision has ceased is received at the Board office. Failure to notify the Board may subject both the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant to disciplinary action. Notices must be signed. Telephone or email notices shall not be accepted.

#### 21 NCAC 38 .0902 SUPERVISION IS AN INTERACTIVE PROCESS.

The occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant are each responsible for supervision to ensure safe and effective service delivery of occupational therapy services and to foster professional competence and development. The supervising occupational therapist shall provide supervision. The occupational therapy assistant shall obtain supervision. Evidence of supervision must be recorded on a supervisory log or in the documentation.

#### 21 NCAC 38 .0903 TYPES OF SUPERVISION

(a) Occupational therapy assistants at all levels shall require general supervision by an occupational therapist pursuant to Rule .0103(21)(a) of this Chapter.

#### 21 NCAC 38 .0904 DOCUMENTATION OF SUPERVISION

- (a) Documentation of supervision is the responsibility of both the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant. Documentation must include the frequency of supervisory contact, method(s) or type(s) of supervision, content areas addressed, and names and credentials of the persons participating in the supervisory process.
- (b) Supervision must reflect a review of all aspects of the occupational therapy assistant's practice. In any situation, the occupational therapist is ultimately responsible for all delegated services. Co-signature on occupational therapy service documentation, even if mandated by statute or rule, does not accurately satisfy supervision requirements.
- (c) Effectiveness of the supervision shall be regularly evaluated by both the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant.

#### 21 NCAC 38 .0905 DELINEATION OF CLINICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Regardless of the setting in which occupational therapy services are delivered, the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant shall have the following responsibilities during client evaluation, intervention, and outcome evaluation:

- (1) Evaluations:
  - (a) The occupational therapist shall;
    - (i) Direct the evaluation process:
    - (ii) Determine the need for services;
    - (iii) Define the problems within the domain of occupational therapy that need to be addressed;
    - (iv) Determine the client's goals and priorities in collaboration with the occupational therapy assistant and the client or caregiver;
    - (v) Interpret the information provided by the occupational therapy assistant and integrate that information into the evaluation decision-making process;
    - (vi) Establish intervention priorities;
    - (vii) Determine specific future assessment needs;

- (viii) Determine specific assessment tasks that can be delegated to the occupational therapy assistant; and
- (ix) Initiate and complete the evaluation, interpret the data, and develop the intervention plan in collaboration with the occupational therapy assistant.
- (b) The occupational therapy assistant may contribute to the evaluation process by implementing assessments delegated by the occupational therapist.
- (2) Intervention Planning:
  - (a) The occupational therapist shall develop the occupational therapy intervention plan. The plan may be developed collaboratively with the occupational therapy assistant and the client or caregiver; and
  - (b) The occupational therapy assistant may provide input into the intervention plan.
- (3) Intervention implementation:
  - (a) The occupational therapist:
    - (i) Shall implement the occupational therapy intervention;
    - (ii) May delegate aspects of the occupational therapy intervention to the occupational therapy assistant; and
    - (iii) Shall supervise all aspects of intervention delegated to the occupational therapy assistant.
  - (b) The occupational therapy assistant shall implement delegated aspects of intervention in which the occupational therapy assistant has established service competency; and
  - (c) Occupational therapists shall not be subject to disciplinary action by the Board for refusing to delegate or refusing to provide the required training for delegation, if the occupational therapist determines that delegation may compromise client safety.
- (4) Intervention review:
  - (a) The occupational therapist shall meet with each client who has been assigned to an occupational therapy assistant to further assess the client, to evaluate intervention, and, if necessary, to modify the individual's intervention plan;
  - (b) The occupational therapist shall determine the need for continuing or discontinuing services; and
  - (c) The occupational therapy assistant may contribute to the process of determining continuing or discontinuing services by providing information about the client's response to intervention to assist with the occupational therapist's decision making.
- (5) Documentation:
  - (a) The occupational therapy practitioner shall document each evaluation, intervention, and discharge plan recognizing the requirements of practice settings, payors, and service delivery models. Documentation shall include the following elements:
    - (i) Client name or identifiable information;
    - (ii) Signature with occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant designation of the occupational therapy practitioner who performed the service;
    - (iii) Date of the evaluation, intervention, or discharge plan;
    - (iv) Objective and measurable description of contact or intervention and client response; and
    - (v) Length of time of intervention session or evaluation.
  - (b) The occupational therapist shall determine the overall completion of the evaluation, intervention, or discharge plan; and
  - (c) The occupational therapy assistant shall;
    - (i) Document intervention, intervention response, and outcome; and
    - (ii) Document client's level of function at discharge.
- (6) Discharge:
  - (a) The occupational therapist shall determine the client's discharge from occupational therapy services; and

- (b) The occupational therapy assistant shall:
  - (i) Report data for discharge summary; and
  - (ii) Formulate discharge or follow-up plans under the supervision of the occupational therapist.
- (7) Outcome evaluation:
  - (a) The occupational therapist is responsible for the selection, measurement, and interpretation of outcomes that are related to the client's ability to engage in occupations; and
  - (b) The occupational therapy assistant must be knowledgeable about duties delegated by the occupational therapist that relate to the client's targeted occupational therapy outcome and provide information relating to outcome achievement.

### **North Dakota**

# <u>Statute:</u> North Dakota Century Code Chapter 43-40 43-40-01 Definitions.

4. "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy, under this chapter, who works under the supervision of an occupational therapist.

# <u>Regulation:</u> North Dakota Administrative Code Title 55.5, Article 02 Section 55.5-02-03-01 Supervision.

The occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant shall exercise appropriate supervision over individuals who are authorized to practice only under supervision. Supervision is a cooperative process in which two or more people participate in a joint effort to establish, maintain, and elevate a level of competence and performance. Within the scope of occupational therapy practice, supervision is aimed at ensuring the safe and effective delivery of occupational therapy services and fostering professional competence and development. Supervision involves guidance and oversight related to the delivery of occupational therapy services and the facilitation of professional growth and competence. It is the responsibility of the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant to seek the appropriate quality and frequency of supervision to ensure safe and effective occupational therapy service delivery.

#### Section 55.5-02-03-01.1 Definitions.

For purposes of sections 55.5-02-03-01.2 and 55.5-02-03-01.3:

- 1. "Direct supervision" means face-to-face contact, including observation, modeling, cotreatment, discussions, teaching, and video teleconferencing.
- 2. "Indirect supervision" means other than face-to-face contact, including phone conversations, written correspondence, electronic exchanges, and other methods using secure telecommunication technology.

### Section 55.5-02-03-01.2 Supervision of occupational therapy assistants.

An occupational therapy assistant must be supervised by an occupational therapist.

- 1. An occupational therapist may not supervise more than three occupational therapy assistants at the same time.
- 2. An occupational therapy assistant must be directly supervised as needed by evidence of clinical practice, and indirectly supervised as is necessary. In determining the methods, frequency, and content of supervision, an occupational therapist shall consider all of the following:
  - a. Complexity of clients' needs.
  - b. Number and diversity of clients.
  - c. Skills of the occupational therapy assistant.
  - d. Type of practice setting.
  - e. Changes in practice settings.
  - f. Requirements of the practice setting.
  - g. Other regulatory requirements.

- 3. An occupational therapist and a supervised occupational therapy assistant shall make a written supervision plan, including all of the following:
  - a. Documentation that the occupational therapy assistant is competent to perform the services provided.
  - b. Documentation of the frequency, methods, and content of supervision.
  - c. Documentation of periodic evaluation of the occupational therapy assistant's competence and the supervision necessary.
- 4. An occupational therapist shall file with the board a substantiation of supervision form for each occupational therapy assistant supervised before the occupational therapy assistant may practice. If there is a change in supervisors, the new supervisor shall immediately file a new substantiation of supervision form. The form is available from the board.
- 5. An occupational therapist, who is unavailable to supervise an occupational therapy assistant for more than one day, shall arrange to have supervision available by another occupational therapist as necessary.

### Ohio

# <u>Statute:</u> Ohio Revised Code Title 47, Chapter 4755 4755.04 Definitions.

(C) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person who holds a license or limited permit to provide occupational therapy techniques under the general supervision of an occupational therapist.

### Regulation: Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 4755-7

#### 4755-7-01 Occupational therapy practice defined.

For the purpose of Chapters 4755-1 to 4755-9 of the Administrative Code, the following definitions shall apply:

- (B) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person who holds a license to provide occupational therapy techniques under the general supervision of an occupational therapist.
- (H) "Supervising occupational therapist" means the occupational therapist who is available to supervise the occupational therapy assistant, the student occupational therapist, student occupational therapy assistant, or unlicensed personnel. The supervising occupational therapist may be the occupational therapist who performed the initial evaluation or another occupational therapist with whom that occupational therapist has a documented agreement.
- (I) "Supervising occupational therapy assistant" means the occupational therapy assistant who is appropriately available to supervise the student occupational therapy assistant, the student occupational therapist who is completing the level I fieldwork experience, or unlicensed personnel.

### 4755-7-02 Roles and responsibilities.

(A) Occupational therapist.

The occupational therapist shall assume professional responsibility for the following activities, which shall not be wholly delegated, regardless of the setting in which the services are provided:

- (1) Interpretation of referrals or prescriptions for occupational therapy services;
- (2) Interpretation and analysis for evaluation purposes;
- (3) Development, interpretation, and modification of the treatment/intervention plan and the discharge plan.
- (B) Occupational therapy assistant.
  - (1) The occupational therapy assistant may contribute to and collaborate in:
    - (a) The evaluation process by gathering data, administering standardized tests and/or objective measurement tools, and reporting observations.
    - (b) The preparation, implementation, and documentation of the treatment/intervention plan and the discharge plan.
    - (c) Choosing the appropriate treatment interventions.
  - (2) The occupational therapy assistant may independently:
    - (a) Select the daily modality of choice according to the established treatment/intervention plan.

- (b) Document the progress and outcomes summary.
- (3) The occupational therapy assistant may not evaluate independently or initiate treatment/intervention before the supervising occupational therapist performs an evaluation.

#### 4755-7-03 Delegation.

(A) Occupational therapy assistant.

The occupational therapy assistant may implement the occupational therapy treatment/intervention plan established by the supervising occupational therapist. The supervising occupational therapist shall consider the following when delegating to the occupational therapy assistant:

- (1) The clinical complexity of the client;
- (2) The competency of the occupational therapy assistant;
- (3) The occupational therapy assistant's level of training in the treatment/intervention technique; and
- (4) Whether continual reassessment of the client's status is needed during treatment/intervention.
- (5) Notwithstanding paragraphs (A)(1) to (A)(4) of this rule, the occupational therapy assistant may respond to acute changes in the client's condition that warrant immediate action.

#### 4755-7-04 Supervision.

- (A) Supervision must ensure consumer protection. The supervising occupational therapist is ultimately responsible for all clients and is accountable and responsible at all times for the actions of persons supervised, including the:
  - (1) Occupational therapy assistant;
  - (2) Student occupational therapist;
  - (3) Student occupational therapy assistant; and
  - (4) Unlicensed personnel.
- (B) The following factors must be considered by the supervising occupational therapist when determining the appropriate frequency, methods, and content of supervision:
  - (1) Complexity of the client needs;
  - (2) Number and diversity of clients;
  - (3) Skills of the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant;
  - (4) Type and number of practice settings;
  - (5) Requirements of the practice setting; and
  - (6) Any other regulatory or administrative requirements.
- (C) Occupational therapy assistant.

Supervision of the occupational therapy assistant, as defined in division (C) of section 4755.04 of the Revised Code, requires initial direction and periodic inspection of the service delivery and relevant in-service training. The supervising occupational therapist need not be on-site, but must be available for consultation with the occupational therapy assistant at all times.

- (1) The supervising occupational therapist must provide supervision at least one time per week for all occupational therapy assistants who are in their first year of practice.
- (2) The supervising occupational therapist must provide supervision at least one time per month for all occupational therapy assistants beyond their first year of practice.
- (3) Supervision requires an interactive process between the supervising occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant. The interactive process must include, but is not limited to, review of the following:
  - (a) Client assessment;
  - (b) Client reassessment;

- (c) Treatment/intervention plan;
- (d) Intervention; and
- (e) Discontinuation of treatment/intervention plan.
- (4) Co-signing client documentation alone does not meet the minimum level of supervision.
- (5) It is the responsibility of the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant to establish evidence that the supervision occurred in accordance with the requirements of this rule. This evidence may include documentation in the client record, or it may exist as a separate document, such as a collaboration log.
- (6) The supervising occupational therapy assistant is accountable and responsible at all times for the actions of all student occupational therapy assistants and unlicensed personnel supervised by the supervising occupational therapy assistant.

### Oklahoma

# <u>Statute:</u> Oklahoma Statutes Title 59, Section 888.3 Definitions.

3. "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to provide occupational therapy treatment under the general supervision of a licensed occupational therapist;

# Regulation: Oklahoma Administrative Code Title 435, Chapter 30 435:30-1-2. Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this Chapter, shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly in-dictates otherwise:

"Alternate supervisor" means an Oklahoma licensed Occupational Therapist who has signed a Form #5, Verification of Supervision, agreeing to provide supervision to the Occupational Therapy Assistant or applicant for licensure in the absence of the supervising Occupational Therapist. The alternate supervisor assumes all duties and responsibilities of the primary supervisor during that absence.

"Direct supervision" means personal supervision and specific delineation of tasks and responsibilities by an Oklahoma licensed occupational therapist who has signed a Form #5, Verification of Supervision, agreeing to supervise the Occupational Therapy Assistant or applicant for licensure. Direct supervision shall include the responsibility for personally reviewing and interpreting the results of any habilitative or rehabilitative procedures conducted by the supervisee. It is the responsibility of the supervising occupational therapist to be onsite during treatment to ensure that the supervisee does not perform duties for which he is not trained.

"General supervision" means responsible supervision and control by an Oklahoma licensed occupational therapist who has signed a Form #5, Verification of Supervision, agreeing to supervise the Occupational Therapy Assistant or applicant for licensure. The supervising occupational therapist provides both initial direction in developing a plan of treatment and periodic inspection of the actual implementation of the plan. Such plan of treatment shall not be altered by the supervised individual without prior consultation with and approval of the supervising occupational therapist. The supervising occupational therapist need not always be physically present or on the premises when the assistant is performing services; however, except in cases of emergency, supervision shall require the availability of the supervising occupational therapist for consultation with and direction of the supervised individual. Supervision is an interactive process, more than a paper review or a co-signature, and requires direct in-person contact.

"Occupational therapist of record" means the occupational therapist who assumes responsibility for the provision and /or supervision of occupational therapy services for a client, and is held accountable for the coordination, continuation and progression of the plan of care

"Primary supervisor" means the Oklahoma licensed Occupational Therapist who has signed a Form #5, Verification of Supervision, agreeing to provide supervision to the Occupational Therapy Assistant or applicant for licensure. The Primary Supervisor must have access to the client's plan of care.

#### 435:30-1-8. Licensure requirements specific to occupational therapy assistant

(a) An occupational therapy assistant is a person who assists in the duties usually performed by an occupational therapist under the general supervision of a licensed occupational therapist.

#### 435:30-1-16. Responsible supervision

- (a) An occupational therapist will not sign the Form #5, Verification of Supervision, to be the direct clinical supervisor for more than a total of four occupational therapy assistants or applicants for licensure regardless of the type of professional licensure or level of training.
- (b) It shall be the responsibility of the occupational therapist to monitor the number of persons under his/her direct clinical supervision. It shall be the responsibility of the occupational therapy assistant to inquire of the occupational therapist in regards to the number of persons being directly supervised.
- (c) On a case-by-case basis, an occupational therapist may petition the Committee to receive permission to supervise additional occupational therapy assistants or applicants.
- (d) If responsible supervision is not practiced, both the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant are in violation of this rule.
- (e) If the licensed occupational therapist agrees to supervise an occupational therapy assistant, the occupational therapist shall:
  - (1) determine the frequency and manner of consultations, taking into consideration the treatment settings being used, client rehabilitation status, and the competency of the occupational therapy assistant being supervised;
  - (2) maintain a record of all consultations provided;
  - (3) document in the client treatment record each time the occupational therapist supervising the occupational therapy assistant is physically present and directly supervises the treatment of a client by the occupational therapy assistant being supervised.
  - (4) make herself/himself available to the occupational therapy assistant in person or via telecommunication for consultation prior to implementation of any treatment program revisions; and
  - (5) review with the occupational therapy assistant in person or via telecommunication the diagnosis of the condition to be treated, the authorization of the procedure, dismissal of the client, and evaluation of the performance of the treatment given.
- (f) The licensed occupational therapy assistant shall:
  - (1) consult with the supervising occupational therapist in person or via telecommunication prior to any treatment program revision; and
  - (2) notify the supervising occupational therapist of any significant changes in the physical, cognitive and/or psychological status of the client. Contact, or attempts to contact the supervising occupational therapist will be documented in the record.
- (g) Occupational therapy assistants with more than one employer must have a primary supervisor at each job who has completed a Form #5, Verification of Supervision.
- (h) The evaluating occupational therapist will document transfer of care to the occupational therapist of record.

### 435:30-1-17. Role of Occupational Therapy Assistants in evaluations

An Occupational Therapy Assistant's participation in evaluations is not independent. The Occupational Therapy Assistant works in collaboration with and under the supervision of an Occupational Therapist. It is the Occupational Therapists responsibility to give appropriate supervision and the Occupational Therapy Assistant's responsibility to seek appropriate supervision. The Occupational Therapy Assistant may have a role in the evaluation process and in the administration of assessment tools and instruments under the supervision of an Occupational Therapist after competency has been established. It is the Occupational Therapist who initiates the evaluation process and delegates the appropriate assessment to be carried out by the Occupational Therapy Assistant. The Occupational Therapy Assistant may administer and score these assessments. The Occupational Therapist interprets the results with input from the Occupational Therapy Assistant to establish a treatment plan.

### Oregon

### **Statute: Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 675**

#### Definitions for ORS 675.210 to 675.340.

As used in ORS 675.210 to 675.340, unless the context requires otherwise:

(4) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of an occupational therapist.

# Regulation: Oregon Administrative Rules Chapter 339, Division 10 339-010-0005 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(8) 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(8) with supervision available as needed by other methods.

#### 339-010-0035 Statement of Supervision for Occupational Therapy Assistant

- (1) Any person who is licensed as an occupational therapy assistant may assist in the practice of occupational therapy only under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist.
- (2) Before an occupational therapy assistant assists in the practice of occupational therapy, he/she must file with the Board a current statement of supervision of the licensed occupational therapist who will supervise the occupational therapy assistant.
- (3) An occupational therapy assistant always requires at least general supervision.
- (4) The supervising occupational therapist shall provide closer supervision where professionally appropriate.
- (5) The supervisor, in collaboration with the supervisee, is responsible for setting and evaluating the standard of work performed.

### Pennsylvania

# <u>Statute:</u> Pennsylvania Unconsolidated Statutes, Act No. 140 of 1982 Section 3. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the meanings given to them in this section:

"Occupational therapy assistant." A person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy, under the supervision of an occupational therapist.

### Regulation: Pennsylvania Code Title 49, Chapter 42

### Section 42.22 Supervision of occupational therapy assistants.

- (a) Section 3 of the act (63 P. S. § 1503) provides that licensed occupational therapy assistants may assist in the practice of occupational therapy only under the supervision of an occupational therapist. "Under the supervision of an occupational therapist" means that an occupational therapist currently licensed by the Board:
  - (1) Evaluates the patient/client.
  - (2) Prepares a written program plan.
  - (3) Assigns treatment duties based on that program plan to an occupational therapy assistant currently licensed by the Board who has been specifically trained to carry out those duties.
  - (4) Monitors the occupational therapy assistant's performance.

	(5) Accepts professional responsibility for the occupational therapy assistant's performance.
	(b) Supervision includes the following:
	(1) Communicating to the occupational therapy assistant the results of patient/client evaluation and discussing the goals and
	program plan for the patient/client.
	(2) Periodically reevaluating the patient/client and, if necessary, modifying the program plan.
	(3) Case management.
	(4) Determining program termination.
	(5) Providing information, instruction and assistance as needed.
	(6) Observing the occupational therapy assistant periodically.
	(7) Preparing on a regular basis, but at least annually, a written appraisal of the occupational therapy assistant's performance and discussing that appraisal with the assistant.
	(c) Notwithstanding subsections (a)(1) and (b)(2), the supervisor may assign to a competent occupational therapy assistant the
	administration of standardized tests, the performance of activities of daily living evaluations and other elements of patient/client evaluation and reevaluation that do not require the professional judgment and skill of an occupational therapist.
	(d) The supervisor shall have supervisory contact with the occupational therapy assistant at least 10% of the time worked by the assistant
	in direct patient care. "Supervisory contact" means face-to-face individual contact, telephone communication, contact through written
	reports or group conferences among a supervisor and two or more supervisees. Face-to-face individual contact shall occur onsite at least
	once a month and shall include observation of the assistant performing occupational therapy. The specific mode, frequency and duration
	of other types of supervisory contact depend on the treatment setting, the occupational therapy assistant's caseload, the condition of
	patients/clients being treated by the assistant and the experience and competence of the assistant as determined by the supervisor. The
	supervisor shall ensure, however, that supervisory contact within each calendar month includes a combination of face-to-face, telephone
	and written communication.
	(e) The supervisor shall maintain a supervisory plan and shall document the supervision of each occupational therapy assistant.
	Documentation shall include evidence of regular supervision and contact between the supervisor and the assistant.
	(f) A supervisor who is temporarily unable to provide supervision shall arrange for substitute supervision by an occupational therapist
	currently licensed by the Board. The substitute shall provide supervision that is as rigorous and thorough as that provided by the
	permanent supervisor.
	(g) Failure to comply with this section constitutes unprofessional conduct under section 16(a)(2) of the act (63 P. S. § 1516(a)(2)).
Puerto Rico	Statute: Laws of Puerto Rico Title 20, Chapter 51
	Section 1031 Definitions
	(3) Assistant in occupational therapy. — The person who under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist performs selective
	tasks or activities proper to occupational therapy.
	Regulation: L. Num 137, § 1.3 (translation)
	The occupational therapy assistant is the person who assists or helps the occupational therapist in selected tasks or activities that require
	neither the ability, judgement nor extensive knowledge required of occupational therapists. The occupational therapy assistant's work is
	made under the immediate direction of the occupational therapist.
Rhode Island	Statute: Rhode Island General Laws Title 5, Chapter 40
	Section 5-40.1-3. Definitions.
	(j) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to practice occupational therapy under the provisions of this chapter and the
	rules and regulations authorized by this chapter.
	(k) "Supervision" means that a licensed occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant is at all times responsible for supportive
	personnel and students.

#### Section 5-40.1-21 Supervision.

- (a) A licensed occupational therapist shall exercise sound judgment and shall provide adequate care in the performance of duties. A licensed occupational therapist shall be permitted to supervise the following: occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, occupational therapy aides, care extenders, occupational therapy students, and volunteers.
- (b) A licensed occupational therapy assistant shall exercise sound judgment and shall provides adequate care in the performance of duties. A licensed occupational therapy assistant shall be permitted to supervise the following: occupational therapy aides, care extenders, students, and volunteers.
- (c) Subject to the requirements of this section, a licensed occupational therapy assistant may practice limited occupational therapy only under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist. Supervision requires at a minimum that the supervising licensed occupational therapist meet in person with the licensed occupational therapy assistant to provide initial direction and periodic on-site supervision. The supervising licensed occupational therapist working with the licensed occupational therapy assistant shall determine the amount and type of supervision necessary in response to the experience and competence of the licensed occupational therapy assistant and the complexity of the treatment program. The supervisor and the licensed occupational therapy assistant shall be jointly responsible for maintaining records, including patient records, to document compliance with this regulation.
- (d) A licensed occupational therapy assistant:
  - (1) May not initiate a treatment program until the patient has been evaluated and the treatment planned by the licensed occupational therapist;
  - (2) May not perform an evaluation, but may assist in the data gathering process and administer specific assessments where clinical competency has been demonstrated, under the direction of the licensed occupational therapist;
  - (3) May not analyze or interpret evaluation data;
  - (4) May participate in the screening process by collecting data and communicate the information gathered to the licensed occupational therapist;
  - (5) Monitors the need for reassessment and report changes in status that might warrant reassessment or referral under the supervision of the licensed occupational therapist; and
  - (6) Immediately discontinues any treatment procedure, which appears harmful to the patient and immediately notifies the supervising occupational therapist.
- (e) (1) An occupational therapy aide shall be a worker trained on the job. A licensed occupational therapist or licensed occupational therapy assistant using occupational therapy aide personnel to assist with the provision of occupational therapy services must provide close supervision in order to protect the health and welfare of the consumer.
  - (2) The primary function of an occupational therapy aide functioning in an occupational therapy setting shall be to perform designated routine tasks related to the operation of an occupational therapy service. These tasks may include, but are not limited to, routine department maintenance, transporting patients/clients, preparing or setting up treatment equipment and work area, assisting patients/clients with their personal needs during treatment, assisting in the construction of adaptive equipment, and carrying out a predetermined segment or task in the patient's care.
- (f) The licensed occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant shall not delegate to an occupational therapy aide:
  - (1) Performance of occupational therapy evaluation procedures;
  - (2) Initiation, planning, adjustment, modification, or performance of occupational therapy procedures requiring the skills or judgment of a licensed occupational therapist or licensed occupational therapy assistant;
  - (3) Making occupational therapy entries directly in patients' or clients' official records; and
  - (4) Acting on behalf of the occupational therapist in any matter related to occupational therapy, which requires decision making or professional judgment.

# Regulation: Rhode Island Code of Regulations Title 216, Chapter 40, Subchapter 05, Part 12 12.2 Definitions

- A. Wherever used in this Part the following terms shall be construed as follows:
- 8. "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to practice occupational therapy under the provisions of the Act and this Part.
- 10. "Supervision" means that a licensed occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant shall at all times be responsible for supportive personnel and students.

#### 12.6 Licensure of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants

E. Supervision of occupational therapist assistants is pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-40.1-21.

### **South Carolina**

# **Statute:** South Carolina Code of Laws Title 40, Chapter 36 Section 40-36-20. Definitions.

- (4) "Direct supervision" means personal, daily supervision, and specific delineation of tasks and responsibilities by an occupational therapist and includes the responsibility for personally reviewing and interpreting the results of a supervisee on a daily basis.
- (9) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of an occupational therapist.
- (12) "Supervision" means personal and direct involvement of an occupational therapist in a supervisee's professional experience which includes evaluation of the supervisee's performance with respect to each client treated by the supervisee.

Section 40-36-290. Responsibilities and duties of occupational therapists; records; discharge notes.

- (A) An occupational therapist:
  - (1) has the ultimate responsibility for occupational therapy treatment outcomes and for all occupational therapy services performed under the therapist's supervision;
  - (2) at a minimum, shall provide supervision as required by this chapter;
  - (3) shall communicate regularly with a supervisee regarding assignments, plan of care, and any changes in the client's status and shall document this communication;
  - (4) shall reevaluate a client where therapy has been significantly interrupted before reassigning an occupational therapy assistant to the case:
  - (5) only shall assign to a supervisee those duties and responsibilities for which the supervisee has been trained specifically and for which the supervisee is qualified to perform;
  - (6) must be accessible to supervisee each working day;
  - (7) shall perform the initial evaluation of and establish the treatment plan for each client;
  - (8) shall make a consultation/reassessment visit every seven treatments or thirty days, whichever comes first.
- (B) An occupational therapist is responsible for the occupational therapy record of a client. The occupational therapy record shall consist of:
  - (1) the initial evaluation including a written report signed and dated by the occupational therapist performing the evaluation;
  - (2) a plan of care, including:
    - (a) treatment to be rendered;
    - (b) frequency and duration of treatment;
    - (c) measurable goals.

Progress notes must be signed and dated by the person rendering treatment. When progress notes are written by an occupational therapy student or an occupational therapy assistant student or examination candidate, the notes are to be countersigned and dated by the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant who is providing supervision.

A discharge note containing a statement of the client's status at the last treatment session must be written, signed, and dated by the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant rendering services. In the case of the occupational therapy assistant, the occupational therapist must co-sign and consult on all discharge notes.

Section 40-36-300. Responsibilities and duties of occupational therapy assistants and aides; restrictions.

- (A) An occupational therapy assistant only shall assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist and shall:
  - (1) only accept those duties and responsibilities for which the assistant has been specifically trained and is qualified to perform;
  - (2) consult with the supervising occupational therapist every seven treatments or thirty days, whichever is first, for each client;
  - (3) inform the occupational therapist of any changes in a client that may require reevaluation or change in treatment;
  - (4) contribute to a client evaluation by gathering data, administering structured tests, and reporting observations but may not evaluate a client independently or initiate treatment before a licensed occupational therapist's evaluation.

Regulation: No relevant regulations.

### South Dakota

# **Statute:** South Dakota Codified Laws Title 36, Chapter 31 Section 36-31-1 Definition of terms.

Terms used in this chapter mean:

(6) "Occupational therapy assistant," any person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy, under the supervision of or with the consultation of a licensed occupational therapist and whose license is in good standing;

### Regulation: South Dakota Administrative Rules Article 20:64, Chapter 1 20:64:01:01. Definitions.

- (2) "Direct supervision," the physical presence of an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant in the immediate room when remediative tasks are being performed by an occupational therapy aide;
- (3) "Supervision," the physical presence of an occupational therapist on the premises where a patient is being cared for by an occupational therapy assistant.

# Regulation: South Dakota Administrative Rules Article 20:64, Chapter 3 20:64:03:02. Supervision of occupational therapy assistant.

An occupational therapy assistant with less than one year of experience in the assistant's present area of practice must receive a minimum of 10 hours of supervision from an occupational therapist for each 40 work hours or 25 percent of the total scheduled work hours. An occupational therapy assistant with more than one year of experience in the assistant's present area of practice must receive a minimum of 4 hours of supervision from an occupational therapist for each 40 work hours or 10 percent of the total scheduled work hours. The supervising occupational therapist shall evaluate each patient with input from the occupational therapy assistant as appropriate, prepare a written treatment plan outlining the tasks and responsibilities that may be performed by the occupational therapy assistant, monitor patient progress and reevaluate the treatment plan, and determine the termination of treatment. The frequency and manner of supervision is determined by the supervising licensed occupational therapist based on the condition of the patient or client, the proficiencies of the occupational therapy assistant, and the complexity of the therapy method. If the supervision agreement is terminated, the occupational therapist must also notify the board in writing within 15 days of such termination. In addition, the supervising occupational therapist must also notify the board in writing within 15 days if the supervision agreement is terminated.

#### **Tennessee**

### **Statute:** Tennessee Code Annotated Title 63, Chapter 13

#### 63-13-103 Definitions.

(8) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist in occupational therapy practice under the supervision of an occupational therapist;

#### 63-13-206 Supervision of an occupational therapy assistant by an occupational therapist.

- (a) A licensed occupational therapy assistant shall practice under the supervision of an occupational therapist who is licensed in Tennessee.
- (b) The supervising occupational therapist is responsible for all services provided by the occupational therapy assistant, including, but not limited to, the formulation and implementation of a plan of occupational therapy services for each client, and has a continuing responsibility to follow the progress of each client and to ensure the effective and appropriate supervision of the occupational therapy assistant according to the needs of the client.
- (c) The supervising occupational therapist shall assign to the occupational therapy assistant only those duties and responsibilities that the occupational therapy assistant is qualified to perform.
- (d) The board shall adopt rules governing the supervision of occupational therapy assistants by occupational therapists. Those rules may address the following:
  - (1) The manner in which the supervising occupational therapist oversees the work of the occupational therapy assistant;
  - (2) The ratio of occupational therapists to occupational therapy assistants required under different conditions and in different practice settings; and
  - (3) The documentation of supervision contacts between the supervising occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant.
- (e) The rules adopted by the board shall recognize that the frequency, methods and content of supervision of occupational therapy assistants by occupational therapists may vary by practice setting and are dependent upon the following factors, among others:
  - (1) Complexity of the client's needs;
  - (2) Number and diversity of clients;
  - (3) Skills of the occupational therapy assistant and the supervising occupational therapist;
  - (4) Type of practice setting; and
  - (5) Requirements of the practice setting.

### Regulation: Rules and Regulations of Tennessee Chapter 1150-02

#### 1150-02-01 Definitions.

As used in these rules, the terms and acronyms shall have the following meanings ascribed to them.

- (21) Licensed Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Any person who has met the qualifications for licensed occupational therapy assistant and holds a current, unsuspended or unrevoked, license which has been lawfully issued by the Board. Such person assists and works under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist.
- (27) Supervision is defined as the following:
  - (a) Continuous: Within sight of the individual being supervised.
  - (b) Close: Daily direct contact at the site of treatment.
  - (c) Routine: Direct contact at least every two (2) weeks at the site of treatment, with interim supervision occurring by other methods such as telephone or written communication.
  - (d) General: At least monthly direct contact with supervision available as needed by other methods.
  - (e) Minimal:

- 1. For supervision of occupational therapists, minimal supervision may be provided on an as-needed basis and may be less than monthly.
- 2. For supervision of occupational therapy assistants, minimal supervision is not appropriate.

#### 1150-02.10 Supervision.

The Board adopts, as if fully set out herein, and as it may from time to time be amended, the current "Guidelines for Supervision, Roles, and Responsibilities During the Delivery of Occupational Therapy Services" issued by the American Occupational Therapy Association but only to the extent that it agrees with the laws of the state of Tennessee or the rules of the Board. If there are conflicts with state law or rules, the state law or rules govern the matter. Information to acquire a copy may be obtained by contacting either of the following:

American Occupational Therapy Association

4720 Montgomery Lane Bethesda, MD 20824-1220 Telephone: (301) 652-2682 T.D.D.: (800) 377-8555 Fax: (301) 652-7711

Fax On Request: (800) 701-7735 (for a specific document)

Internet: www.aota.org

Board of Occupational Therapy 665 Mainstream Drive Nashville, TN 37243 Telephone: (615) 532-3202 ext. 25135 Telephone: (888) 310-4650 ext. 25135

Fax: (615) 532-5164

Internet: www.state.tn.us/health

- (3) Supervision of an Occupational Therapy Assistant with permanent licensure means initial direction and inspection of the service delivery and provision of relevant in-service training, according to the level of supervision the occupational therapy assistant requires. It is the responsibility of the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant to seek the appropriate quality and frequency of supervision that ensures safe and effective occupational therapy service delivery. This decision is based on client's level of care, OTA caseload, experience and demonstrated performance competency.
  - (a) The frequency of the face to face collaboration between the Occupational Therapy Assistant and the supervising Occupational Therapist should exceed direct contact of once a month if the condition of the patient/client, complexity of treatment, evaluation procedures, and proficiencies of the person practicing warrants it.
  - (b) The Occupational Therapist shall be responsible for the evaluation of the patient and the development of the patient/client treatment plan. The Occupational Therapy Assistant may contribute information from observations and standardized test procedures to the evaluation and the treatment plans.
  - (c) The Occupational Therapy Assistant can implement and coordinate intervention plan under the supervision of the licensed Occupational Therapist.
  - (d) The Occupational Therapy Assistant can provide direct services that follow a documented routine and accepted procedure under the supervision of the Occupational Therapist.
  - (e) The Occupational Therapy Assistant can adapt activities, media, environment according to the needs to the patient/client, under the supervision of the licensed Occupational Therapist.

- (f) Therapists must maintain documentation of each supervisory visit, and must identify a plan for continued supervision. Records must include, at a minimum, the following information:
  - 1. Location of visit; a method of identifying clients discussed
  - 2. Current plan for supervision (daily, weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, other)
  - 3. Type of supervision provided. These include but are not limited to
    - (i) In person
    - (ii) Phone contact
    - (iii) Electronic contact
  - 4. Identification of type(s) of interventions observed. These include but are not limited to:
    - (i) Interventions
    - (ii) Training
    - (iii) Consultations
  - 5. Other supervisory actions. These include but are not limited to:
    - (i) Discussion/recommendation for interventions and/or goals
    - (ii) Discussion/training in documentation
    - (iii) Demonstration/training in intervention techniques
    - (iv) Assessment/re-assessment/discharge
    - (v) Additional Comments
  - 6. An agreement statement signed and dated by both parties, that the supervisory visit did occur and met the needs of the supervisor and supervisee.
  - 7. It is the responsibility of the supervising occupational therapist to provide and the occupational therapy assistant to seek a quality and frequency of supervision that ensures safe and effective occupational therapy service delivery. Both parties (supervisor and supervisee) must keep copies of the supervisory records. Visit records must be maintained for three (3) years, and must be provided to the Board and/or its representative, upon request.
- (6) Supervision parameters
  - (a) Supervision is a collaborative process that requires both the licensed occupational therapist and the licensed occupational therapy assistant to share responsibility. Appropriate supervision will include consideration given to factors such as level of skill, the establishment of service competency (the ability to use the identified intervention in a safe and effective manner), experience and work setting demands, as well as the complexity and stability of the client population to be treated.
  - (b) Supervision is an interactive process that requires both the licensed occupational therapist and the licensed occupational therapy assistant or other supervisee to share responsibility for communication between the supervisor and the supervisee. The licensed occupational therapist should provide the supervision and the supervisee should seek it. An outcome of appropriate supervision is to enhance and promote quality services and the professional development of the individuals involved.
  - (c) Supervision of occupational therapy services provided by a licensed occupational therapy assistant is recommended as follows:
    - 1. Entry level occupational therapy assistants are persons working on initial skill development (less than 1 year of work experience) or who are entering new practice environments or developing new skills (one or more years of experience) and should require close supervision.
    - 2. Intermediate level occupational therapy assistants are persons working on increased skill development, mastery of basic role functions (minimum one three years of experience or dependent on practice environment or previous experience) and should require routine supervision.
    - 3. Advanced level occupational therapy assistants are persons refining specialized skills (more than 3 years work experience, or the ability to understand complex issues affecting role functions) and should require general supervision.

# 4. Licensed occupational therapy assistants, regardless of their years of experience, may require closer supervision by the licensed occupational therapist for interventions that are more complex or evaluative in nature and for areas in which service competencies have not been established.

5. Certain occupational therapy assistants may only require minimal supervision when performing non-clinical administrative responsibilities.

#### **Texas**

### <u>Statute:</u> Texas Statutes Sec. 454.002. DEFINITIONS.

In this chapter:

(6) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed by the board as an occupational therapy assistant who assists in the practice of occupational therapy under the general supervision of an occupational therapist.

### Regulation: Texas Administrative Code Title 40, Part 12, Chapter 362 362.1 Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this part shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (6) Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA®)--An individual who uses this term must hold a valid regular or provisional license to practice or represent self as an occupational therapy assistant in Texas and must practice under the general supervision of an OTR® or OT. An individual who uses this term is responsible for ensuring that he or she is otherwise qualified to use it by maintaining certification with NBCOT.
- (30) Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA)--An individual who holds a valid regular or provisional license to practice or represent self as an Occupational Therapy Assistant in Texas, and who is required to be under the continuing supervision of an OT. This definition includes an individual who is designated as a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA®) or an Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA). (33) Occupational Therapy Practitioners--Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants licensed by this Board.

# Regulation: Texas Administrative Code Title 40, Part 12, Chapter 372 372.1 Provision of Services

- (f) Plan of Care.
  - (1) Only an occupational therapist may initiate, develop, modify or complete an occupational therapy plan of care. It is a violation of the OT Practice Act for anyone other than the occupational therapist to dictate, or attempt to dictate, when occupational therapy services should or should not be provided, the nature and frequency of services that are provided, when the client should be discharged, or any other aspect of the provision of occupational therapy as set out in the OT Act and Rules.
  - (2) Modifications to the plan of care must be documented.
  - (3) An occupational therapy plan of care may be integrated into an interdisciplinary plan of care, but the occupational therapy goals or objectives must be easily identifiable in the plan of care.
  - (4) Only occupational therapy practitioners may implement the written plan of care once it is completed by the occupational therapist.
  - (5) Only the occupational therapy practitioner may train non-licensed personnel or family members to carry out specific tasks that support the occupational therapy plan of care.
  - (6) The occupational therapist is responsible for determining whether intervention is needed and if a referral is required for occupational therapy intervention.
  - (7) Except where otherwise restricted by rule, the occupational therapy practitioner is responsible for determining whether any aspect of the intervention session may be conducted via telehealth or must be conducted in person.

- (8) The occupational therapy practitioners must have contact with the client during the intervention session via telehealth using synchronous audiovisual technology or in person. Other telecommunications or information technology may be used to aid in the intervention session but may not be the primary means of contact or communication.
- (9) Devices that are in sustained skin contact with the client (including but not limited to wheelchair positioning devices, splints, hot/cold packs, or therapeutic tape) require the on-site and attending presence of the occupational therapy practitioner for any initial applications. The occupational therapy practitioner is responsible for determining the need to be on-site and attending for subsequent applications or modifications.
- (10) Except where otherwise restricted by rule, the supervising occupational therapist may only delegate to an occupational therapy assistant tasks that they both agree are within the competency level of that occupational therapy assistant.

#### (g) Documentation.

- (1) The client's records include the medical referral, if required, and the plan of care. The plan of care includes the initial evaluation; the goals and any updates or change of the goals; the documentation of each intervention session by the OT or OTA providing the service; progress notes and any re-evaluations, if required; any patient related documents; and the discharge or discontinuation of occupational therapy services documentation.
- (2) The licensee providing occupational therapy services must document for each intervention session. The documentation must accurately reflect the intervention, decline of intervention, and/or modalities provided.
- (3) In each intervention note, the occupational therapy assistant must include the name of an occupational therapist who is readily available to answer questions about the client's intervention at the time of the provision of services. The occupational therapist in the intervention note may be different from the occupational therapist who wrote the plan of care. The occupational therapy assistant may not provide services unless this requirement is met.
- (h) Discharge or Discontinuation of Occupational Therapy Services.
  - (1) Only an occupational therapist has the authority to discharge clients from occupational therapy services. The discharge or discontinuation of occupational therapy services is based on whether the client has achieved predetermined goals, has achieved maximum benefit from occupational therapy services, or when other circumstances warrant discontinuation of occupational therapy services.
  - (2) The occupational therapist must review any information from the occupational therapy assistant(s), determine if goals were met or not, complete and sign the discharge or discontinuation of occupational therapy services documentation, and/or make recommendations for any further needs of the client in another continuum of care.

#### Utah

# <u>Statute:</u> Utah Code Title 58, Chapter 42a, Part 1 Section 102 Definitions.

(5) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed under this chapter to practice occupational therapy under the supervision of an occupational therapist as described in Sections 58-42a-305 and 58-42a-306.

### Statute: Utah Code title 58, Chapter 42a, Part 3

Section 305 Limitation upon occupational therapy services provided by an occupational therapy assistant and an occupational therapy aide.

- (1) An occupational therapy assistant:
  - (a) may only perform occupational therapy services under the supervision of an occupational therapist as described in Section 58-42a-306;
  - (b) may not write an individual treatment plan;
  - (c) may not approve or cosign modifications to an individual treatment plan; and
  - (d) may contribute to and maintain an individual treatment plan.

#### Section 306 Supervision requirements.

An occupational therapist who is supervising an occupational therapy assistant shall:

- (1) write or contribute to an individual treatment plan before referring a client to a supervised occupational therapy assistant for treatment;
- (2) approve and cosign on all modifications to the individual treatment plan;
- (3) meet face to face with the supervised occupational therapy assistant as often as necessary but at least once every two weeks in person or by video conference, and at least one time every month in person, to adequately provide consultation, advice, training, and direction to the occupational therapy assistant;
- (4) meet with each client who has been referred to a supervised occupational therapy assistant at least once each month, to further assess the patient, evaluate the treatment, and modify the individual's treatment plan, except that if the interval of client care occurs one time per month or less, the occupational therapist shall meet with the client at least once every four visits;
- (5) supervise no more than two full-time occupational therapy assistants at one time, or four part-time occupational therapy assistants if the combined work hours of the assistants do not exceed 40 hours per week, unless otherwise approved by the division in collaboration with the board;
- (6) remain responsible for client treatment provided by the occupational therapy assistant; and
- (7) fulfill any other supervisory responsibilities as determined by division rule.

**Regulation:** No relevant regulations.

#### Vermont

# **Statute:** Vermont Statutes Title 26, Chapter 71 Section 3351. Definitions

(2) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person who is licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of an occupational therapist.

# <u>Regulation:</u> Vermont Administrative Code §3.7 SUPERVISION STANDARDS.

- (a) As used in this rule:
  - "Supervision" means the responsible periodic review and inspection of all aspects of occupational therapy services by the appropriate licensed occupational therapist.
  - "Close supervision" means daily, direct, face-to-face contact at the site of work and applies only to occupational therapists with initial skill development proficiencies or occupational therapy assistants, as appropriate for the delivery of occupational therapy services.
  - "Routine supervision" means direct face-to-face contact at least every two weeks at the site of the work, with interim supervision occurring by other methods, such as telephonic, electronic, or written communication and applies only to occupational therapy assistants
  - "General supervision" means at least monthly direct face-to-face contact, with interim supervision available as needed by other methods, and applies only to occupational therapists with increased skill development and mastery of basic role functions or occupational therapy assistants, as appropriate, for the delivery of occupational therapy services.
- (b) Supervision is a collaborative process that requires both the licensed occupational therapist and the licensed occupational therapy assistant to share responsibility. Appropriate supervision will include consideration given to such factors as level of skill, the establishment of service competency (the ability to use the identified intervention in a safe and effective manner), experience and work setting demands, as well as the complexity and stability of the client population to be treated.

- (c) The supervision of the occupational therapy assistant is a process that is aimed at ensuring the safe and effective delivery of occupational therapy services and fosters professional competence and development.
- (d) For effective supervision to occur that will ensure safety and effectiveness of service delivery and that will support the occupational therapy assistant's professional growth, a variety of types and methods of supervision should be used by the occupational therapist. Examples of methods or types of supervision include observation, co-treatment, dialogue/discussion, and teaching/instruction.
- (e) The occupational therapist develops a plan for supervision that includes input from the OTA in regard to the following:
  - (1) the frequency of supervisory contact
  - (2) the method(s) or type(s) of supervision
  - (3) the content areas addressed
- (f) The supervisory plan is documented and a log of supervisory contacts is kept by both parties. The log includes the frequency and methods of supervision used.
- (g) Supervision of occupational therapy services provided by a licensed occupational therapy assistant shall be implemented as follows:
  - (1) Entry level occupational therapy assistants are persons working on initial skill development (less than 1 year of work experience) or who are entering new practice environments or developing new skills (one or more years of experience) and shall require close supervision.
  - (2) Intermediate level occupational therapy assistants are persons working on increased skill development, mastery of basic role functions (minimum one three years of experience or dependent on practice environment or previous experience) and shall require routine supervision.
  - (3) Advanced level occupational therapy assistants are persons refining specialized skills (more than 3 years work experience, or the ability to understand complex issues affecting role functions) and shall require general supervision.
  - (4) Licensed occupational therapy assistants, regardless of their years of experience, may require closer supervision by the licensed occupational therapist for interventions that are more complex or evaluative in nature and for areas in which service competencies have not been established.
- (h) General statements regarding roles and responsibilities during the delivery of occupational therapy services:
  - (1) The occupational therapist is responsible for the overall delivery of occupational therapy services and is accountable for the safety and effectiveness of the occupational therapy service delivery process.
  - (2) The occupational therapy assistant delivers occupational therapy services under the supervision of the occupational therapist.
  - (3) It is the responsibility of the occupational therapist to be directly involved in the delivery of services during the initial evaluation and regularly throughout the course of intervention.
  - (4) Services delivered by the occupational therapy assistant are specifically selected and delegated by the occupational therapist. When delegating to the occupational therapy assistant, the occupational therapist considers the following factors:
    - (A) the complexity of the client's condition and needs
    - (B) the knowledge, skill, and competence of the occupational therapy assistant.
    - (C) the nature and complexity of the intervention
  - (5) Prior to delegation of any aspect of the service delivery process to the occupational therapy assistant, service competency must be demonstrated and documented between the occupational therapist and occupational therapy assistant. Service competency is demonstrated and documented for clinical reasoning and judgment required during the service delivery process as well as for the performance of specific techniques, assessments, and intervention methods used. Service competency must be monitored and reassessed regularly.
  - (6) The role delineation and responsibilities of the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant remain unchanged regardless of the setting in which occupational therapy services are delivered (i.e., traditional, non-traditional, or newly emerging practice settings).

# (i) An occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant practicing under a temporary license must have daily, direct, on-site supervision by a licensed occupational therapist for the duration of the temporary license. The supervisor is available for advice and intervention, and will sign all notes entered into the patient's medical record.

### Virginia

# <u>Statute:</u> Code of Virginia Title 54.1, Chapter 29 §54.1-2900 Definitions.

"Occupational therapy assistant" means an individual who has met the requirements of the Board for licensure and who works under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist to assist in the practice of occupational therapy.

### Regulation: Virginia Administrative Code Title 18, Agency 85, Chapter 80 18 VAC 85-80-10 Definitions.

B. The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Occupational therapy personnel" means appropriately trained individuals who provide occupational therapy services under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist.

#### 18 VAC 85-80-90 General Responsibilities.

B. An occupational therapy assistant renders services under the supervision of an occupational therapist that do not require the clinical decision or specific knowledge, skills and judgment of a licensed occupational therapist and do not include the discretionary aspects of the initial assessment, evaluation or development of a treatment plan for a patient.

#### 18 VAC 85-80-110 Supervisory Responsibilities of an Occupational Therapist.

- A. Delegation to an occupational therapy assistant.
  - 1. An occupational therapist shall be ultimately responsible and accountable for patient care and occupational therapy outcomes under his clinical supervision.
  - 2. An occupational therapist shall not delegate the discretionary aspects of the initial assessment, evaluation or development of a treatment plan for a patient nor shall be delegate any task requiring a clinical decision or the knowledge, skills, and judgment of a licensed occupational therapist.
  - 3. Delegation shall only be made if, in the judgment of the occupational therapist, the task or procedures do not require the exercise of professional judgment, can be properly and safely performed by an appropriately trained occupational therapy assistant, and the delegation does not jeopardize the health or safety of the patient.
  - 4. Delegated tasks or procedures shall be communicated to an occupational therapy assistant on a patient-specific basis with clear, specific instructions for performance of activities, potential complications, and expected results.
- B. The frequency, methods, and content of supervision are dependent on the complexity of patient needs, number and diversity of patients, demonstrated competency and experience of the assistant, and the type and requirements of the practice setting. The occupational therapist providing clinical supervision shall meet with the occupational therapy assistant to review and evaluate treatment and progress of the individual patients at least once every tenth treatment session or 30 calendar days, whichever occurs first. For the purposes of this subsection, group treatment sessions shall be counted the same as individual treatment sessions.
- C. An occupational therapist may provide clinical supervision for up to six occupational therapy personnel, to include no more than three occupational therapy assistants at any one time.
- D. The occupational therapy assistant shall document in the patient record any aspects of the initial evaluation, treatment plan, discharge summary, or other notes on patient care performed by the assistant. The supervising occupational therapist shall countersign such documentation in the patient record at the time of the review and evaluation required in subsection B of this section.

### Washington

# **Statute:** Revised Code of Washington Title 18, Chapter 59 18.59.020 Definitions.

- (6) "Occupational therapy assistant" means a person licensed to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision or with the regular consultation of an occupational therapist.
- (7) "Occupational therapy practitioner" means a person who is credentialed as an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant.

# Regulation: Washington Administrative Code Title 246, Chapter 847 WAC 246-847-010 Definitions.

- (9) "Professional supervision" of an occupational therapy aide as described in RCW 18.59.020(5) means in-person contact at the treatment site by an occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant licensed in the state of Washington. When client-related tasks are provided by an occupational therapy aide more than once a week, professional supervision must occur at least weekly. When client-related tasks are provided by an occupational therapy aide once a week or less, professional supervision must occur at least once every two weeks.
- (10) "Regular consultation with an occupational therapy assistant" means at least monthly contact with the supervising occupational therapist licensed in the state of Washington, with further supervision available as needed.

#### WAC 246-847-135 Standards of supervision.

The following are the standards for supervision of occupational therapy assistants, limited permit holders, and occupational therapy aides:

- (1) A licensed occupational therapy assistant must be in regular consultation, as defined by WAC 246-847-010, with an occupational therapist licensed in the state of Washington. Regular consultation must be documented and the documentation must be kept in a location determined by the supervising occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant.
- (2) A limited permit holder:
  - (a) Who is waiting to take the examination for licensure must work in association with an occupational therapist licensed in the state of Washington with a minimum of one year of experience. "In association with" includes consultation regarding evaluation, intervention, progress, reevaluation and discharge planning of each assigned patient at appropriate intervals and documented by cosignature of all notes by the supervising occupational therapist.
  - (b) Who has failed the examination must be directly supervised by an occupational therapist licensed in the state of Washington with a minimum of one year of experience. Direct supervision must include consultation regarding evaluation, intervention, progress, reevaluation and discharge planning of each assigned patient at appropriate intervals and documented by cosignature of all notes by the supervising occupational therapist.
- (3) An occupational therapy aide must be supervised and trained by an occupational therapist or an occupational therapy assistant licensed in the state of Washington. Professional supervision must include documented supervision and training.
  - (a) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant shall provide professional supervision as defined in WAC 246-847-010 to the occupational therapy aide on client and nonclient related tasks.
  - (b) When performing client related tasks, the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant must ensure the occupational therapy aide is trained and competent in performing the task on the specific client.
  - (c) The documentation must be maintained in a location determined by the supervising occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant.

### **West Virginia**

# <u>Statute:</u> West Virginia Code Chapter 30, Article 28 §30-28-3 Definitions

(e) "Direct supervision" means the actual physical presence of a licensed supervising occupational therapist or licensed occupational therapy assistant, and the specific delineation of tasks and responsibilities for personally reviewing and interpreting the results of any

habilitative or rehabilitative procedures conducted by the limited permit holder, occupational therapy student, or aide. Direct supervision includes direct close supervision and direct continuous supervision.

- (f) "Direct close supervision" means the licensed supervising occupational therapist or licensed occupational therapy assistant is in the building and has daily direct contact at the site of work.
- (g) "Direct continuous supervision" means the licensed supervising occupational therapist or licensed occupational therapy assistant is physically present and in direct line of sight of the occupational therapy student or aide.
- (h) "General supervision" means initial direction and periodic inspection of the activities of a licensed occupational therapist assistant by the supervising licensed occupational therapist, but does not necessarily require constant physical presence on the premises while the activities are performed.
- (I) "Occupational Therapy Assistant" means a person licensed by the board under the provisions of this article to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the general supervision of an Occupational Therapist.

#### §30-28-4 Scope of practice; license and supervision requirements.

(d) An occupational therapy assistant may assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the general supervision of an occupational therapist.

# Regulation: West Virginia Code of State Rules Title 13, Series 1 §13-1-2 Definitions.

As used in this rule:

- 2.6. "General Supervision" means initial direction and periodic inspection of the activities of a licensed occupational therapist assistant by the supervising licensed occupational therapist, but does not necessarily require constant physical presence on the premises while the activities are performed
- 2.13. Occupational Therapy Assistant means a person licensed by the Board under the provisions of W. Va. Code §30-28 to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the general supervision of an occupational therapist.

# §13-1-12 Responsibilities and Supervision Requirements of the Occupational Therapist, Occupational Therapy Assistant, or Limited Permit Holder.

- 12.2. The occupational therapist is responsible for all aspects of occupational therapy service delivery and is accountable for the safety and effectiveness of the occupational therapy service delivery process. The occupational therapy service delivery process involves evaluation, intervention planning, intervention implementation, intervention review, and outcome evaluation.
  - 12.2.a. The occupational therapist must be directly involved through a face-to-face visit with the patient during the initial evaluation and establishment of the intervention plan, and prior to any change in the plan, such as adding, changing, renewing, or discontinuing occupational therapy goals.
- 12.3. The occupational therapy assistant is responsible for delivering occupational therapy services under the supervision of and in partnership with the occupational therapist.
- 12.4. It is the responsibility of the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant to seek the appropriate quality and frequency of supervision to ensure safe and effective occupational therapy service delivery.
  - 12.4.a. The specific frequency, methods, and content of supervision may vary by practice setting and are dependent upon the
    - 12.4.a.1. Complexity of client needs,
    - 12.4.a.2. Number and diversity of clients,
    - 12.4.a.3. Skills of the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant,
    - 12.4.a.4. Type of practice setting,
    - 12.4.a.5. Requirements of the practice setting, and

#### 12.4.a.6. Other regulatory requirements.

12.4.b It is the responsibility of the occupational therapist supervising an occupational therapy assistant with less than one year experience to provide general supervision with direct contact at least every two weeks at the site of work and supervision available as needed by telephonic, electronic, or written communication. Documentation by the occupational therapist must reflect that this supervision has occurred.

12.4.c. It is the responsibility of the occupational therapist supervising an occupational therapy assistant with increased skill development and mastery of basic role functions for the delivery of occupational therapy services to provide general supervision with monthly direct contact and supervision available as needed by telephonic, electronic, or written communication.

Documentation by the occupational therapist must reflect that this supervision has occurred.

12.4.d. General Supervision is demonstrated through co-signatures on all paperwork or electronic notes pertaining to the practice of occupational therapy for the person requiring general supervision. All paperwork or electronic notes pertaining to the practice of occupational therapy must be signed and dated, electronically or otherwise, by the supervising licensed occupational therapist. The supervisor need not be present or on the premises at all times where the licensed occupational therapy assistant is performing the professional services.

### Wisconsin

# <u>Statute:</u> Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 448 Subchapter VII 448.96 Definitions.

In this subchapter:

(6) "Occupational therapy assistant" means an individual who is licensed by the affiliated credentialing board to assist in the practice of occupational therapy under the supervision of an occupational therapist.

### Regulation: Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter OT 1 OT 1.02 Definitions.

(26) "Supervision" is a cooperative process in which 2 or more people participate in a joint effort to establish, maintain, and elevate a level of competence and performance. One of the participants, the supervisor, possesses skill, competence, experience, education, credentials, or authority in excess of those possessed by the other participant, the supervisee.

### Regulation: Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter OT 4

### OT 4.04 Supervision and practice of occupational therapy assistants.

- (1) An occupational therapy assistant must practice under the supervision of an occupational therapist. Supervision is an interactive process that requires both the occupational therapist and the occupational therapy assistant to share responsibility for communication between the supervisor and the supervisee. The occupational therapist is responsible for the overall delivery of occupational therapy services and shall determine which occupational therapy services to delegate to the occupational therapy assistant or non-licensed personnel based on the establishment of service competence between supervisor and supervisee, and is accountable for the safety and effectiveness of the services provided.
- (2) Supervision of an occupational therapy assistant by an occupational therapist shall be either close or general. The supervising occupational therapist shall have responsibility for the outcome of the performed service.
- (3) When close supervision is required, the supervising occupational therapist shall have daily contact on the premises with the occupational therapy assistant. The occupational therapist shall provide direction in developing the plan of treatment and shall periodically inspect the actual implementation of the plan. The occupational therapist shall cosign evaluation contributions and intervention documents prepared by the occupational therapy assistant.
- (4) (a) When general supervision is allowed, the supervising occupational therapist shall have direct contact with the occupational therapy assistant and face-to-face-contact with the client by every tenth session of occupational therapy and no less than one time

per calendar month. Direct contact with the occupational therapy assistant is for the purpose of reviewing the progress and effectiveness of treatment and may occur simultaneously or separately from the face-to-face contact with the client.

- (b) The occupational therapist shall record in writing a specific description of the supervisory activities undertaken for each occupational therapy assistant. The written record shall include client name, status and plan for each client discussed.
- (c) "Direct contact" means face-to-face communication or communication by means of telephone, electronic communication, or group conference.
- (5) Close supervision is required for all rehabilitation, neonate, early intervention, and school system services provided by an entry level occupational therapy assistant. All other occupational therapy services provided by an occupational therapy assistant may be performed under general supervision, if the supervising occupational therapist determines, under the facts of the individual situation, that general supervision is appropriate using established professional guidelines.

### **Wyoming**

# <u>Regulation:</u> Wyoming Administrative Rules, Occupational Therapy Board, Chapter 1 DEFINITIONS

The definitions set out in the Act are hereby incorporated by reference into these Rules. In addition, as used in these Rules, the following definitions shall apply:

- (d) "Close Supervision" means daily, direct contact at the site of work and applies only to OTs with initial skill development proficiencies or OTAs, as appropriate, for the delivery of occupational therapy services.
- (f) "General Supervision" means at least monthly direct contact at the site of work with interim supervision available as needed by other methods, such as telephonic, electronic or written communication and applies only to OTAs for the delivery of occupational therapy services.
- (j) "Routine Supervision" means direct contact at least every two weeks at the site of work, with interim supervision occurring by other methods, such as telephonic, electronic or written communication and applies only to OTAs.

# Regulation: Wyoming Administrative Rules, Occupational Therapy Board, Chapter 3 STANDARDS OF PRACTICE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Section 2. Supervision of Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants or Occupational Therapy Assistants.

- (a) A licensed OTA may assist in the practice of occupational therapy only under the supervision of an OT.
- (b) The supervisory guidelines are as follows:
  - (i) An entry-level OTA is an individual working on initial skill development or entering a new practice area. At this level the OT shall provide close supervision.
  - (ii) An intermediate-level OTA is an individual working on increased skill development and mastery of basic role functions and demonstrates ability to respond to situations based on previous experience. At this level the OT shall provide routine supervision.
  - (iii) Advanced-level OTA is an individual refining specialized skills with the ability to understand complex issues affecting role functions. At this level the OT shall provide general supervision.
- (c) Each supervising OT shall maintain a supervisory plan and shall document the supervision of each OTA using the supervision form provided by the Board. Documentation shall include evidence of regular supervision and contact between the supervisor and the assistant and may be subject to Board review upon request. Documentation shall be kept for three (3) years. Supervision shall include:
  - (i) Communicating to the OTA the results of patient or client evaluation and discussing the goals and program plan for the patient or client;
  - (ii) Providing information, instruction and assistance as needed;
  - (iii) Annually, or more often if warranted, preparing a written appraisal of the OTAs performance and discussing the appraisal with the OTA;
  - (iv) A supervising OT after initial record review is performed may assign the administration of standardized tests, activities of daily living evaluations, or other elements of patient evaluation and re-evaluation that do not require the professional judgment and skill

- of an occupational therapist to an intermediate or advanced OTA. Assignment under this subsection must be consistent with OTA's education and training.

  (v) More frequent supervision may be necessary as determined by the OT or the OTA, dependent on the level of expertise displayed by the OTA, the setting and the population characteristics.
  - (d) A supervisor who is temporarily unable to provide supervision shall arrange for substitute supervision by an OT currently licensed by the Board. The substitute shall provide supervision that is as rigorous and thorough as that provided by the permanent supervisor.