

Occupational Therapy in Home Health

Prodigy Medical



What exactly is **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY?**

How can OT assist with HHA's?

Occupational Therapists can be used by home health agencies in maximizing outcomes for patients, improving the efficiency of patient care, and improving patients' overall well-being and quality of life.

Occupational Therapy alone is sufficient to qualify a Medicare patient for continued home health services as well as any home health aide or social worker needs (Policy Manual, Chapter 7, Section 40.24).

An Occupational Therapist is able to supervise as well as train home health aides in order to maximize their effectiveness in patient recovery. An OT is able to supervise the HHA even when nursing services are not on the POC, but OT is on the POC (COP, 42CFR484.36). Whether OT is supervising the HHA or not, OT can assist in developing the aide's POC and implement changes as appropriate in order to increase the patient's level of independence. OT's involvement with the HHA can be beneficial in reducing the number of aide visits.

What role does OT play?

Occupational Therapists help clients to perform all types of activities, from using a computer to caring for daily needs such as: dressing, cooking and self-feeding. Physical exercises may be used to increase strength and dexterity, while other activities may be chosen to improve visual acuity or the ability to discern patterns. For example, a client with short-term memory loss might be encouraged to make lists to aid recall, and a person with coordination problems might be assigned exercises to improve hand-eye coordination.

Patients with permanent disabilities, such as spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy, or muscular dystrophy, often need special instruction to master certain daily tasks. For these individuals, therapists demonstrate the use of adaptive equipment, including wheelchairs, orthoses, eating aids, and dressing aids. They also design or build special equipment needed at home or at work, including computer-aided adaptive equipment. They teach clients how to use the equipment to improve communication and control various situations in their environment.



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OBQI reports & OASIS accuracy

Occupational Therapy can be utilized in improving OBQI reports and overall outcomes. OT's are specially trained to rehabilitate patient's ADL and IADL performance. They expertly dissect the demands of an activity (such as ADL's), evaluate the lacking performance skills, and develop a plan to achieve the highest outcomes in functional skills.

Occupational Therapy can be useful in improving OASIS accuracy. OT's can educate staff members in ADL and IADL assessment techniques based on their unique frame of reference and training. This type of education can enhance interrater reliability and the accuracy of recorded data on OASIS functional status questions.

OT Services

- ADL/IADL re-training
- Bathroom transfer training
- Low-vision rehabilitation
- Wheelchair positioning & mobility training
- Environmental modifications
- Falls prevention training
- Adaptive equipment education
- Orthotic device fitting and training
- Upper extremity rehabilitation
- Stroke rehabilitation
- Self-feeding re-training

**“OT TEACHES SKILLS FOR THE
JOB OF LIVING”**

